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ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE CONCLUDES 27 NOVEMBER

JN271942Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The Arab Popular Conference concluded its meetings this evening and will issue its recommendations and resolutions tonight. The conference resumed its meetings earlier today to hear the speeches of the participating delegations which affirmed their condemnation of the treasonous Camp David agreements and all the results arising therefrom concerning the Arab cause. The speeches hailed the National Charter for Joint Action, which constitutes a pan-Arab victory, and praised the Baghdad summit conference.

Statement Issued

JN280903Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text of statement issued at conclusion of Arab Popular Conference in Damascus on 27 November]

[Text] The Arab Popular Conference held an emergency session in Damascus 25 to 27 November to confront the Camp David agreements. The session was attended by representatives of some 150 political parties and organizations, Arab popular and vocational organizations, many international organizations and friendly parties.

The Arab masses have, through the Arab Popular Conference and through their national and progressive fronts and parties as well as their trade unions, expressed their crucial rejection of the Camp David agreements. These masses have also expressed their resolute determination to confront the consequences of these agreements.

The conference stressed that the Camp David plot constitutes the most dangerous element in the conspiratorial imperialist-Zionist-reactionary schemes against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab progressive movement. This plot also constitutes a threat to the culture, life and future of the Arab nation as well as to peace in our area and the world.

The Arab situation looked gloomy as a result of the signing of the Camp David agreements by As-Sadat. The Arab nation was [word indistinct] as a result of As-Sadat's treason by concluding a unilateral peace with the Zionist entity and by adopting capitulation and agentry at Camp David, thus giving up Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan as well as the right to sovereignty over the Sinai. As-Sadat has also opened Egypt's doors for the Zionists to enjoy a free hand with Egypt's military, political, economic and cultural fate in a way that is compatible with their objectives and so as to achieve their goals of dominating the area and expanding at the expense of the Arab homeland to build the great state of Israel with all its ambitions and dreams.

As-Sadat has even gone further. He has granted himself the right to conclude agreements on behalf of the Arabs and in their absence, to tamper with their fate by relinquishing their land, rights and sanctities, and to impose on them his method of submission to the enemy as the way to be followed by those who wish to conclude a peace treaty.

As-Sadat believed that he could guarantee an Arab majority and thus cancel the votes of his opposition and render them unable to change the reality imposed by the will of the plotters at Camp David. Zionism, imperialism and their political experts believed that this stab in the heart of the Arab nation could destroy Arab nationalism as a pan-Arab link capable of mobilizing Arab resources in defense of their being and future. They also believed that they could transform the Arab homeland into competing forces, create sedition and drive wedges into the area.

They also believed that by doing so they could obliterate the features of the Arab-Israeli struggle, reverse its equation and transform it into internal disputes among the Arabs themselves. They have been promoting these disputes ever since the October War. They even surpassed the stage of [words indistinct] . The events in Lebanon, As-Sadat's massing of troops on the border with Libya, the events in the PDRY, and As-Sadat's readiness to intervene in Africa in favor of imperialism and reaction constitute the best evidence of this.

That was the situation in the wake of the signing of the Camp David agreements. Now after the third conference of the front of steadfastness and confrontation in Damascus, the National Charter for Joint Action between Syria and Iraq, and the Bagdad summit conference, the Arab situation is radically different. The Arab nation has managed to regain control and to confirm that Arab nationalism is a real force. The Arab nation has isolated As-Sadat as a result of the unanimous Arab position at the Bagdad summit conference.

Camp David is aimed at upsetting the situation in the Arab area by setting up a military, political and economic alliance between the Zionist entity and the hireling regime in Egypt led by the United States. This aggressive alliance is aimed against the Arab nation, the leading elements of which are Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese nationalist and progressive movement. The impact of this alliance is also bound to affect all Arab forces and countries. This is an addition to the main aim of the plot, namely, to strike at Syria's steadfastness which constitutes a direct front against the Zionist enemy and to liquidate the Palestinian cause. The criminal activities of this alliance have begun in the form of military movements devoted to the service of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The Egyptian regime represents the spearhead for these movements on the borders of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and of the PDRY. This is in addition to the Egyptian regime's aggressive acts against the African peoples.

Anwar as-Sadat, who was convicted of high treason by the Arab People's Court for signing the Camp David agreements, has isolated Arab Egypt from its pan-Arab battle against the Zionist entity after having completely relinquished the inalienable and historic Arab rights in Palestine by colluding with the Zionist entity to liquidate the Palestinian people, land and cause, and also after having relinquished Egyptian soil by giving up Arab soil in the Sinai and placing Egypt under the hegemony of the Zionist enemy. This hireling traitor, by isolating Egypt and removing it from the arena of confrontation against the enemy, has placed the resources of the biggest Arab country in the service of the Arab nation's enemies. This has created a strategic imbalance in the Arab confrontation against the Zionist enemy.

The Camp David plot has not only plundered the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and entrenched the Zionist occupation, but has also brought a U.S. military presence into the heart of the Arab nation. This gravely endangers the Arab and African liberation movement as well as the Middle East area, threatens progress in the area and exposes the area to violent international tension.

The Arab Popular Conference, while exposing the dimensions of the new plot, rejecting it and embodying the will of the Arab nation in its confrontation, records its pride over the vitality and effectiveness of the Arab nation through its confrontation of the plot. The conference condemns the reactionary regimes which took pro-As-Sadat stands through their support for the Camp David agreements. These regimes are the Moroccan monarchical regime, the Sudanese regime, the sultanate of Oman and the YAR regime.

The Arab Popular Conference praises and supports the front of steadfastness and confrontation, and supports the resolutions of the third conference of this front which was held in Damascus. This conference represented a pan-Arab reply to the Camp David plot and asserted the firmness of the front of confrontation and the Arab nation's challenge of the U.S.-Zionist scheme. The conference greets the National Charter for Joint Action between Syria and Iraq with all its pan-Arab and unionist horizons and principles. This charter consolidated the will of steadfastness and confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist plot.

The conference also greets the nationalist and progressive forces [words indistinct]. The importance of this meeting lies in the fact that it lays the foundation for building up the northern and eastern front so as to compensate for the strategic imbalance created by Egypt's deviation from the front against the enemy.

The outcome of the ninth Arab summit conference--its rejection of the Camp David agreements and its resolutions to boycott the Egyptian regime and isolate it--resulted from the firmness of the front of steadfastness and confrontation and the National Charter for Joint Action between Syria and Iraq, including their commitments to the resolutions of the summits in Algiers and Rabat and their assertion that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people [words indistinct] constitute a gain for the popular struggle in confronting the plot and consolidating their capability to confront and abort its consequences.

The Arab Popular Conference calls on all Arab forces to live up resolutions adopted by the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad, particularly those resolutions pertaining to the consolidation of Syria's steadfastness and the Palestinian revolution. The conference also calls on Arab forces to stop all the material and economic aid offered by some Arab states to the Egyptian regime after taking Egypt out of the arena of struggle with the Zionist enemy. The conference hails the steadfastness of Arab Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad and the heroic and pan-Arab stand of Iraq under President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. The conference calls on the Arab masses to strengthen Syria's steadfastness and its pan-Arab stands in its capacity as representative of the Arab nation's honor and pride; as the stronghold of the Arab nation's steadfastness; and as the front of its stubborn struggle against the enemies of the Arab cause.

The Arab popular conference records with pride and honor that our Palestinian people in the occupied territories have valiantly resisted the plot, rejected the Camp David agreements, and confronted their impact and the liquidationist self-rule plan. The Palestinian people have reiterated--through their conferences in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nabulus and Gaza--their determination to continue the struggle under the leadership of the PLO to achieve the national homeland, determine their future and set up their independent and national state on their soil. This comes within the process of liberating all the Palestinian soil in accordance with the program of national Palestinian unity approved by all the Palestinian resistance factions.

The Arab Popular Conference salutes the struggle of our Arab people in Egypt under their national and progressive forces and parties against the plot. The conference also salutes the Egyptian people's determination to return Egypt to its struggling position in the heart of the Arab nation. The Egyptian people are thus struggling under hard circumstances and making great sacrifices.

The conference salutes the steadfastness of our militant people in the PDRY and affirms its solidarity with the PDRY people in their struggle against the reactionary plots and the provocative attempts made by the agents of imperialism and reaction against their democratic national regime. The Arab Popular Conference condemns the attempts of casting doubts and the maneuvers of the imperialist agents against the fraternal Algerian region. These attempts are aimed at harming its national unity. The conference asserts its struggling solidarity with the Algerian revolution and its leaders.

The conference stresses its firm support for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of imperialist provocative acts and of the suspicious military movements by the As-Sadat regime on its eastern border.

The conference salutes the nationalist progressive movement in Lebanon and supports its valiant struggle against the plot aimed at partitioning Lebanon and wiping out its Arabism. The conference greets this movement's cohesion with the Palestinian revolution and Syria.

The stepping up of resistance against the plot of the Camp David agreements by the Arab masses represents a glorious page in the history of the struggle of our Arab nation.

The Arab Popular Conference salutes the freedom- and peace-loving forces in the world that are led by the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union supporting the struggle of our Arab nation. This constitutes an effective weapon in facing U.S. imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The Arab Popular Conference, while greeting and appreciating the gains scored on the level of confrontation, stresses to the Arab masses that the plot has serious dimensions, that the Arab nation's battle will be a vicious and protracted one, but that victory is certain regardless of the price. A continued and intensified struggle on all fronts is required to thwart the plot.

We call on all the Arab progressive and nationalist forces and the masses of the Arab nation to wreck the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance and its capitulationist course and to wreck the Camp David agreements and the treaties of defeatism stemming from these agreements.

Conference Resolutions

JN281037Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text of resolutions issued by Arab Popular Conference]

[Text] The Arab Popular Conference has adopted the following important resolutions:

1. To consider the charter of the pan-Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation and the charter of unity action between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Syria, a revolutionary basis for the confrontation and an Arab framework for pooling all the resources of the Arab nation in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

2. To strike at American monopolist interests in the Arab homeland and to consider the nationalization of Arab oil an urgent step in escalating the clash with the imperialist-Zionist alliance. The conference calls on the progressive oil-producing regimes to nationalize their oil. The conference also calls for withdrawing Arab assets from foreign banks.

3. The conference hails the front of steadfastness and confrontation which has emerged as a reaction to As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territory and calls for utilizing the resources of the front's member states in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy and the imperialist reactionary plans.

4. To call for every level of material, military and moral support for Syria, in its capacity as the main frontline state against the Zionist enemy and the spearhead in any future confrontation with the Zionist enemy, so as to achieve a strategic balance between Syria and the enemy and to mend the defeat caused by Egypt's withdrawal from the confrontation trench following As-Sadat's shameful trip and his signing of the Camp David agreements.

5. To strengthen the steadfastness of the Arab countries which have opposed the Camp David agreements so as to further consolidate this opposition in the interests of the pan-Arab struggle.

6. To expose and condemn the reactionary Arab regimes, especially the reactionary regimes in Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, North Yemen and Sudan, for adopting stands in support of the As-Sadat regime and the Camp David agreements. To call upon popular organizations and nationalist and progressive parties in those countries to intensify their struggle against those regimes within the framework of their struggle programs and to provide political, material and moral support to them.

7. The conference reaffirms all the resolutions previously adopted by the first Arab Popular Conference against separate capitulatory solutions and against any quarter or regime cooperating with or giving any form of support to the As-Sadat regime. The conference calls for the adoption of the following measures against As-Sadat's treason:

A. To expel the As-Sadat regime from the Arab League.
B. To expedite the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to some other Arab country.
C. To assert that the Arab boycott laws applying to the Zionist enemy and to firms, companies, organizations and individuals dealing with the enemy and his firms, companies, organizations and individuals, should also apply to the As-Sadat regime after As-Sadat has turned Egypt into an operation field for Zionist monopolies.
D. To encourage cooperation with firms and organizations which refuse to establish any cultural, political and economic ties with the Zionist enemy and which abide by the boycott decisions.
E. To temporarily transfer the offices of all popular organizations, including trade unions, federations and leagues, from the capital of the Egyptian regime to other Arab countries which are qualified to serve as hosts for these organizations by virtue of their pan-Arab policy line and struggle for Arab unity.
F. To call on progressive Arab countries and popular organizations everywhere in the Arab homeland to remove any existing administrative restrictions against the employment, free movement and education of Egyptians in coordination with the Egyptian nationalist movement.
G. To call on all Arab countries to sever their diplomatic and political relations with the As-Sadat regime and to suspend all economic aid to it, especially since the Arab People's Court has condemned As-Sadat of high treason.

8. It has become clear that the objective of the Camp David agreements is to dominate the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb and to strike at the progressive regime in the PDRY. Therefore, the conference calls for giving political, material and moral support to the PDRY to bolster its steadfastness against these imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans.

9. To call for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad on giving material and political support to the PLO to enable it to perform its national and pan-Arab responsibilities in all fields on confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

10. To grant democratic liberties in the Arab homeland and to mobilize the Arab masses so they can play their role in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, and to face any imperialist-Zionist attack on the north and eastern front.

11. To stress the importance of the unification of all the Palestinian revolution groups and to back the efforts being made to achieve such a unification within the framework of the PLO and in accordance with the political program and organizational formula based on the Tripoli unity document which was agreed upon by all the groups of the Palestinian resistance.

12. To call on all organizations in the progressive Arab countries to place their official and public media at the disposal of the Egyptian nationalist movement so it can inform the Egyptian masses about its stands and policy and mobilize those masses against the Egyptian regime and its institutions which are suppressing the Egyptian people so that this nationalist movement can carry out its own policies.

13. To establish a fund for national action to be managed by the permanent secretary of the Arab Popular Conference. This fund, which will be solely used in serving the pan-Arag struggle, shall obtain its funds from financial obligations fixed on Arab popular, political, trade union and professional organizations and donations which the permanent secretary shall accept so long as they do not conflict with the fund's objectives, the secretariat shall decide on any other means to finance this fund. The secretary shall decide how to expend these funds for the purposes of the pan-Arab struggle.

14. To encourage the escalation of armed struggle inside the occupied territory, to support the struggle of the Arab people in Palestine against the autonomy conspiracy, to back the struggle of Palestinian organizations and institutions in the occupied territory to enable them to stand fast and resist Zionist pressure, and to give all forms of military, financial and moral support to the Palestinian struggle through the PLO.

15. To try to find a formula for military and political coordination between the Palestinian revolution and the parties of the north and eastern front to strengthen the fighting capability in support of the armed struggle.

16. To strengthen political and military solidarity among Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese progressive nationalist movement in view of the importance of the Lebanese arena in the future struggle against the Zionist entity and its extensions in Lebanon represented by the Phalangists and the Sham'unites.

17. To strengthen the struggle of the Egyptian nationalist movement to unify its nationalist progressive groups, which are fighting to overthrow the As-Sadat regime and return Egypt to its vanguard position in the Arab nation's struggle.

18. The Arab Popular Conference announces its solidarity with the mounting struggle of the Egyptian people against the As-Sadat regime and the imperialist American-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance. The conference affirms the importance of the role of the nationalist progressive opposition movement in Egypt which is in line with the general Arab struggle against the Camp David agreements. The conference condemns all acts of terrorism which the As-Sadat regime is exercising against the progressive nationalist patriotic forces and condemns the Egyptian regime's violation of laws and suppression of liberties. The conference calls on all Arab mass organizations to support the struggle of the brave Egyptian Arab people against the policy of the Egyptian regime which is allied with imperialism and Zionism.

19. To give the Egyptian nationalist movement every possible means to reorganize Egyptian workers employed in the Arab countries.

20. To request progressive Arab regimes to facilitate the free movement of Egyptian workers, to treat them equally with their Arab brothers in those countries, and to call on popular organizations to achieve this in all Arab countries.

21. To strengthen the struggle of the Lebanese nationalist movement and to support the efforts being exerted to assert Lebanon's unity and Arabism--both people and land--and also to give material and moral support to the Lebanese nationalist movement in accordance with a program to be prepared by the movement for this purpose.

22. The conference calls on the Lebanese Government to conduct serious and firm work for Lebanon's unity, and to terminate the policies of lukewarmness and procrastination that only serve the Phalangists and Sham'unites who are bound to the Zionist enemy. The conference calls on the government to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions in accordance with a specific timetable, particularly the resolution on dissolving the isolationist militias, terminating all armed manifestations and commissioning the Arab deterrent forces to implement this timetable.

23. The conference calls on the Lebanese authorities to implement the public reform demands, above all that of rebuilding the state's institutions on a sound national basis. Rebuilding the Lebanese army on sound national bases in accordance with a defense policy with clear objectives and in accordance with a new law for national defense constitutes a principal step which will enable the state to regain control over the Lebanese territory.

24. To stress the nationalism of the overwhelming majority of Christians who reject the policy of the phalangists-Sham'unite alliance which cooperates with Zionism.

25. To champion the Arab popular efforts to support the legitimate authorities to enable them to spread their control over all Lebanese territory without exception so as to prevent the partitioning of the people, and to support the authorities' efforts to rebuild its institutions.

26. To emphasize the categorical rejection of the attempts to internationalize the Lebanese crisis within or outside the Security Council and the United Nations.

27. To mobilize official, popular and diplomatic Arab efforts to support the presence of the UN forces in all the southern border areas in implementation of Resolutions 425 and 436, to abrogate the hireling militias and to close the doors of cooperation with the enemy in preparation for handing over the southern Lebanese area to the official Lebanese authorities.

28. To concert the political and information efforts of the popular Arab organizations in the Arab world and in international bodies to support the struggling Arab position against the Camp David agreements and to define the roles and responsibilities of these organizations in accordance with a well-planned program. This program will define the appropriate role of every Arab organization. The conference's general secretariat will formulate and implement this program.

29. The conference calls for consolidating the front against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism and for setting up the closest ties with the peoples of the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, and with the African and nonalined peoples, the Third World peoples, the Latin American peoples and all the friends of the Arab cause in Western Europe. The stands of these countries and peoples toward the Camp David agreements and the treason of As-Sadat should be the measure for cooperation.

30. To prepare the Arab masses militarily by implementing the programs of training and the military service so that the Arab masses will be well qualified to confront the dangers of the military alliance As-Sadat had concluded with the Zionist entity and U.S. imperialism, and also so that the Arab nation will be able to create qualitative changes in its military policies.

31. To promote unity of struggle with the national liberation ; movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America because the victory of the issues of freedom constitutes an integrated (?course) and the victory over any element of the conspiracy represents support for the peoples' movement to finally get rid of imperialist control.

32. To call on the popular organizations to formulate practical struggling plans against the Camp David agreements and their impact:

A. To call on the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] to organize a symbolic strike in the Arab homeland in protest against the Camp David agreements.
B. To call on the ICATU to study the strategic effects resulting from the transfer of the Egyptian labor force to the Zionist entity in order to replace the Zionist workers who will be devoted to the armed forces.
C. To call on the Islamic and Christian organizations in the Arab homeland and in the Islamic world to adopt resolutions against the Camp David agreements and to struggle for regaining the holy city of Jerusalem.
D. To call on the unions of Arab journalists, writers and men of letters to mobilize Arab public opinion to confront the Zionist-imperialist cultural and ideological invasion and to define [words indistinct] in accordance with a program to be formulated by all organizations at extraordinary conference.

E. To call on all the vocational and educational unions to confront the Zionist infiltration on the economic, scientific and (?educational) levels.
F. The popular organizations call on all international democratic institutions and organizations to play their roles in confronting the Camp David agreements because they are agreements of war and not peace.

The popular organizations also call on the World Peace Council and other international democratic and political organizations and parties to hold special conferences to discuss the threats of these agreements.

33. To condemn the reactionary-expansionist-dictatorial regime in Iran which is allied with imperialism and Zionism. To support the Iranian masses and their progressive forces hostile to imperialism, Zionism and sectarianism in their struggle for freedom and progress.

34. The conference denounces all imperialist military alliances and the military bases in Oman and the Arab Gulf. The conference calls for achieving democratic freedoms and releasing all political detainees in reactionary prisons.

35. The conference stresses all the resolutions adopted by the Arab conferences in its first session concerning Oman, Saqia al-Hamra, [word indistinct] Eritrea and Arabistan.

36. The conference appeals to all peace-loving forces in the world to achieve a peaceful solution to the Eritrean issue by means of a democratic dialog with the representatives of the Eritrean revolution so as to insure the right of the Eritrean people to determine their future and to [word indistinct] the common interests of the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples.

37. The conference condemns the fascist terrorism campaigns against Yemeni nationals and the Yemeni masses in North Yemen. The conference also condemns the attempts aimed at dragging the Yemeni people into a civil war. It fully supports the heroic struggle of the Yemeni people under the national democratic front and all the national progressive forces.

38. The conference salutes the struggle of the Arab people in Tunisia and condemns the arbitrary measures against the trade union movement and the detention of scores of strugglers. The conference calls on the ruling regime in Tunisia to release these strugglers immediately and restore basic freedoms so that the masses can contribute to the national and progressive struggling movement to wreck the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots.

39. It was agreed that there will be collective measures by the masses and parties when the treasonous peace treaty is signed between As-Sadat and the Zionist entity:

A. To hold a general strike throughout the Arab world to demonstrate the Arab people's solidarity and the isolation of the As-Sadat regime.
B. To boycott U.S. aircraft and ships at all Arab ports and airports.
C. Hold large processions before U.S. embassies in all the Arab capitals.
D. To send cables to the UN secretary general and to the Arab League secretary general to the effect that no one or no regime has the right to relinquish Arab rights and also that As-Sadat has no right to represent the Arab people.
E. All Arab newspapers should be published on the day of the signing in a manner commensurate with the event. The Arab masses should implement the aforementioned resolutions.
F. Mosques and churches should comdemn and denounce As-Sadat's treason.
G. Radio and television programs should be drawn up to denounce As-Sadat and the unilateral peace treaty. Special programs should be beamed to the Egyptian people explaining the dimensions of this plot.

PLO MILITARY OFFICIAL ISSUES STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN, ARAB AFFAIRS

JN241813Y Damascus AL-BA'TA in Arabic 24 Nov 78 p 5 JN

[Statement to AL-BA'TH by Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department]

[Excerpts] We believe that the current circumstances are more favorable than ever before to achieve an advanced formula for national unity in the Palestinian arena. On the one hand, there are fateful challenges. Neither the Palestinian revolution nor the Palestinian cause has previously faced such great challenges. The liquidation undertaken by Anwar as-Sadat has entered practical and advanced stages, in addition to the attempts aimed at eliminating the physical existence of the revolution by basically depending on the "Zionized" forces in Lebanon, which are still employed to perform comprehensive and increasingly dangerous roles in the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

On the other hand, there are the positive changes witnessed by the region, the foremost of which is the Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement that revived hope and pushed aside the wave of despair that had penetrated all Palestinian and Arab citizens as a result of As-Sadat's treasonous and capitulationist policy during the past 5 years. This policy was crowned by his ill-omened visit to occupied Jerusalem and later by signing the Camp David accords. The rapprochement between Syria and Iraq has been able to achieve much within a short period of time. It has transformed the entire Arab region from a state of disintegration, loss, disruption and despair into a state of power, hope, unity and self-confidence.

This positive transformation, which is expected to constantly develop and progress until overall unity is achieved between the two countries, should be an encouraging factor in the service of all positive trends and eventually in the service of Palestinian national unity, because this unity is a positive trend and an urgent need that should be in harmony with the trends of the new pan-Arab national struggle which burst out as a result of the rapprochement between Damascus and Baghdad.

We also believe that As-Sadat, with his total relinquishment of the Palestinian cause, pan-Arab rights and the dignity of all Arabs, has cut the road short and slammed all doors to counting on U.S. settlement. What is left for all Palestinian revolution factions is one clear choice--the choice of concentrating attention on armed struggle and refusing to deal with any of the currently proposed settlement formulas, which are all U.S.-Zionist formulas. In other words, there is no room or justification for any kind of political struggle inside the Palestinian arena, at least until the stage of As-Sadat is eliminated. The political struggle during the past years has been a basic element for division on the Palestinian arena.

The Baghdad summit provided a practical solution to another question that was no less important than that of political struggle. I mean the problem of diversifing the sources of financing the revolution and its factions. The Baghdad summit radically solved this problem by allocating annual contributions to the PLO that are sufficient to meet the needs of all the revolution institutions and to insure the budgets of its factions.

The ball has been hit into the Palestinians' court after the Baghdad summit. It is no longer possible to make excuses to justify any delay or sluggishness in achieving national unity and correcting the various conditions of the revolution in such a manner that will increase its effectiveness and consolidate the confidence of the Arab masses and all anticolonialist forces of the world. We are not surprised to hear that As-Sadat is seeking and doing his utmost to implement the Palestinian part of the Camp David accords. By this we mean the self-rule plan. This is due to the fact that liquidating the Palestinian cause is the price As-Sadat has promised to pay in return for some of the Sinai sands. In view of the overwhelming resistance to this plan as well as the strong opposition inside and outside the occupied territories to the Camp David liquidationist bargain, and due to As-Sadat's unsuccessful attempt to drag Jordan into cooperating with him and the enemy authorities in implementing the self-rule plan in the West Bank--at the Baghdad conference Jordan assumed a stand that opposes As-Sadat's policy--in view of all this, As-Sadat is trying to persuade his allies and U.S. and Israeli masters to speed up enforcing the implementation of the self-rule plan in the Gaza Strip with the help of the Egyptian ruling organs before the opposition in the Gaza Strip to the self-rule plan becomes entrenched and deeply-rooted, thus developing into an integrated part of the opposition stand of the West Bank.

This stand of As-Sadat is in obvious agreement with the Israeli plans which insist on differentiating between the West Bank and Gaza Strip even in the issue of autonomous rule. These plans aim at setting up a special self-rule in the Gaza Strip and different self-rule in the West Bank, as if the West Bank and the Gaza Strip contained two different nationalities.

The forthcoming meeting between Jordan and the PLO will not be anything new in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. This meeting was preceded by other meetings which took place in Amman and other Arab capitals. After the Rabat summit a new stage in the relations between the PLO and Jordan was supposed to begin. Continuous working meetings were supposed to begin to reorganize relations between the two sides and embark on solving the standing problems in a manner that agrees with the Rabat summit resolution which recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent national authority. However, these talks stumbled right from the beginning and stopped without achieving anything. We believe that the negative conditions, which imposed themselves on the region due to the policy of unilateral action and capitulation by Egypt's ruler Anwar as-Sadat, clearly influenced the course of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and were a basic element in preventing progress in these relations and causing the previous talks to be unsuccessful.

On the other hand, we believe that the positive changes in the region after the signing of the National Charter for Joint Action between Syria and Iraq--a line completely opposing the capitulation of As-Sadat--will inevitably clearly reflect on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the nature of the forthcoming talks between Jordan and the PLO. The two sides are supposed to cooperate in implementing the resolutions of the Baghdad summit, which rejected the Camp David agreements. Therefore, the PLO and Jordan should be committed to cooperating together so as to foil the self-rule plan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to create an appropriate climate to develop struggle with all methods against the occupation, in harmony with the commitments imposed by the results of the Baghdad summit.

We hope that tangible success will be achived in forming close political stands and opening a new page of relations between Jordan and the PLO. We are already aware of all sorts of standing and accumulated difficulties and complications as well as of the need to make extraordinary efforts to overcome these difficulties and complications.

'ARAFAT PROPOSES ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

LD251052Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--AR-RIYADH reports today that the PLO is currently contacting Arab and Islamic countries to convene an Islamic summit conference. The main topic will be the future of Jerusalem and the dangers posed to it by the Zionist entity. The paper reports that a number of Arab and Islamic countries have responded to the call made by Yasir 'Arafat to convene a conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to discuss the subject of noble Jerusalem and to affirm and maintain its Arabism. 'Arafat is expected to visit a number of Arab and Islamic countries, especially in Africa, for this purpose.

AR-RIYADH, quoting responsible Palestinian sources, reports that in the next few days the chairman of the PLO is to send messages, to be delivered by Palestinian envoys, to the heads and leaders of the Islamic countries which include the Palestinian suggestions to preserve the religious sites and features in noble Jerusalem. Contacts are taking place at present between the PLO and the Islamic conference organization to coordinate the convening of the conference. The paper points out that in the event a conference of the Islamic countries foreign ministers is held, the ministers will discuss the preparations and arrangements for convening an Islamic summit conference.

VOP REPORTS FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS IN WEST BANK

JN271648Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Our Palestinian revolutionaries continue to carry out their heroic and courageous operations against vital enemy installations, inflicting heavy losses on enemy ranks.

Yesterday one of our special groups planted incendiary time bombs in metal tubes that were placed on shelves of a supermarket at Qiryat Arba' in the Hebron area. The bombs went off at noon yesterday and damaged most of the supermarket's contents. Some of the supermarket's walls collapsed, and many of the Zionist settlers who were inside were killed or wounded. Immediately afterward Zionist security forces rushed to the scene. They conducted a precautionary search for other bombs in the area. Rescue units evacuated the casualties.

The Palestinian military spokesman said that this operation comes as a first reaction to the Zionist settlement onslaught in the Hebron area and as an answer to the provocative measures of the Zionist gangs of Gush Emunim against our people in occupied Hebron.

The Palestinian military spokesman also announced that another group of our revolutionaries last Saturday placed time bombs on the main street of the Zionist settlement [name indistinct] between Hebron and Jerusalem. The bombs went off on time at 2040. The explosion resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of Zionist settlers. A large part of the nearby building was damaged, and several cars parked on the street were destroyed. The Palestinian military spokesman added that the Zionist police forces cordoned off the area and arrested many Palestinian citizens at roadblocks. The group was able to return safely to base.

PALESTINIAN WORKERS FEDERATION CONFERENCE ENDS, STATEMENT ISSUED

JN241805Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 24 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The General Federation of Palestinian Workers has concluded its sixth conference begun on 20 November in Damascus and issued several important decisions and recommendations in its final statement.

In its statement the conference stressed its categorical rejection and condemnation of the treasonous Camp David agreement that As-Sadat signed with the Zionist enemy under the aegis of U.S. imperialism. This agreement aims at disregarding the Palestinian people's rights and encircling the Palestinian revolution, their sole legitimate representative and leader of their national struggle. The agreement also constitutes a violation of Egypt's sovereignty and its national dignity as well as a stab in the back of the Arab nation's struggle.

The statement also stresses that a just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved except through the enemy's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinians' rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. [Words indistinct] all liquidationist and treasonous plots which try to harm their political gains and national legitimate rights, including their right to armed struggle to regain these rights.

The statement also calls for supporting the Egyptian people and their national forces in order to overthrow traitor As-Sadat and foil his capitulationist and treacherous plots. It further calls for opening all Arab borders to Palestinian Fedayeen action and for granting the Palestinian revolution the freedom of movement, presence and training in all Arab countries. The conference praised the fateful cohesion between the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples under their national and pan-Arab forces.

It called on all national, progressive and peace-loving states, forces and parties to support the two peoples so as to foil the Zionist-isolationist scheme of striking at and encircling the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. The conference praised the honorable struggle waged by the working class of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and hailed their steadfastness against all attempts aimed at Judaizing and expropriating the Palestinian territories and expelling the inhabitants by force as a prelude to settling in them. The conference paid tribute to the firm principled stands of the socialist states, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, toward the just struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their national rights and their return to their homeland. The conference called for consolidating relations between the front of steadfastness and confrontation and the Soviet Union, the socialist bloc and friendly nonalined states.

PFLP LEADER HABASH CONCLUDES VISIT TO ADEN 26 NOV

JN261531Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Aden 26, November--Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine today concluded his visit of several days to the PDRY. Dr Habash held talks with the PDRY Socialist Party on the current Arab situation in the wake of the traitorous Camp David agreements. Habash said that his talks dealt with the nature of the conspiratorial plans to which the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab progressive and revolutionary forces are being subjected as a result of the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance.

PLO'S MAYZAR DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN UNITY, JORDANIAN RELATIONS

JN250909Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 78 p 8 JN

[Text of interview with PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar by AR-RA'Y Damascus correspondent 'Isam Dari--date not given]

[Text] Question: What are the bases of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, and how far can this cooperation go?

Answer: The bases of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation are the same governing the relationship between brothers. We can go further and say that Jordanian-Palestinian relations should be special due to the peculiarities linking Jordan with Palestine and the fraternal Jordanian people with the Palestinian people.

The Baghdad conference resolutions have formulated clear and frank bases for cooperation among the Arab brothers, particularly between the PLO and the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In accordance with these resolutions, which reiterate the resolutions of Algiers and Rabat and reject the Camp David agreements and their political and legal impact as well as the self-rule plot in the occupied Palestinian land, Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation could develop for the benefit of the joint Arab interests and the joint interests of the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Out of its faith in the unity of fate and of the Arab cause, whose core is being represented by the Palestine issue, the PLO is working to strengthen its cooperation with all the Arab countries rejecting the Camp David agreements and the self-rule plot. These agreements constitute a stab at Arab unity and a blatant violation of international, Arab and Palestinian legality. This legality has confirmed the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their land, determine their future and set up their independent state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland. [paragraph continues]

We on our part are prepared to establish cooperation with these Arab countries, particularly with Jordan, to the furthest extent in order to safeguard the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian issue in particular as well as the national rights of our struggling people.

Question: Where is Palestinian unity?

Answer: National Palestinian unity has been embodied in a political program which was collectively approved by all Palestinian factions. This program will be discussed by the Palestinian National Council, perhaps during the second half of December. All factions of the Palestinian resistance have also agreed on an organizational program in advance form to consolidate and unify the Palestinian ranks to confront the most serious plot facing the Palestinian cause as a result of the Camp David agreements.

Question: What is the PLO's assessment of Jordan's stand at the Baghdad conference and Jordan's rejection of the Camp David agreements?

Answer: The Jordanian stand, as expressed by its acceptance of the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad, is considered a positive stand in consolidating Arab solidarity against the schemes that have been manifested in the Camp David agreements. In as much as all the Arab countries which participated in the Baghdad summit give these resolutions practical translation, their stands will be influential in confronting these serious plots.

I must here indicate that the Camp David agreements do not only constitute a threat to the Palestine cause but also to all the Arab capitals. They also constitute a threat to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Syria and Iraq. Likewise, these agreements constitute a threat to the Palestinian people and their cause. This is because these agreements are aimed at rendering the Arab nation subservient to the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. These agreements are also aimed at placing the Arab area at the mercy and under the umbrella of Israeli-U.S. interests.

Therefore, the supreme pan-Arab interest dictates that all sincere Arabs should focus on the positive aspects of Arab relations so the Arabs can face the danger in a broad front adequate to thwart all plots and plotters.

Question: Following recent developments in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations at Blair House, how does the PLO view these negotiations?

Answer: The Blair House negotiations are an extension of the Camp David agreements. They are also a link in the chain. Rejecting the chain means rejecting all links. The current maneuvers and reports on the obstruction of negotiations are only a link in the Israeli-U.S. solution being imposed on the Arab area. The United States, in its capacity as the godfather of the Israeli-U.S. solution, is well aware, especially after the Syrian-Iraqi meeting and after the historic resolutions of the Baghdad summit, that its policy is now passing through a crisis, because the Baghdad summit resolutions have disclosed the isolation of the U.S. policy in the Arab area. Perhaps the United States is now aware of the fact that its interests dictate that the announcement of the agreement should be postponed for some time.

As regards As-Sadat, we believe that he has become a prisoner of his capitulatory policy which began by his visit to Jerusalem, followed by his talks and agreements at Ismailia, Camp David and Blair House. It has become evident that all this is a link in the chain of the capitulatory course based on submission to the enemy's logic and expansionist designs at the expense of the Palestinian people, their just cause and the national rights of our strugglers inside and outside the occupied homeland.

KUWAIT

KUWAITI SOURCES REPORT ON RECOMMENDED OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE

AL-ANBA' Cited

JN260929Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 26 November--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today reports that the OPEC Economic Committee has recommended raising the price of oil by 25 percent as a minimum and 49 percent as a maximum. This recommendation has been referred to the OPEC ministers, who will meet in Abu Dhabi on 6 December.

In a report from Abu Dhabi, the paper says that the rate of loss of OPEC revenues ranges between these two figures. The paper explains that the rate of imported inflation and the erosion of revenues due to the dollar differ from one country to another. What affects Kuwait does not affect Indonesia equally because imports differ in quality and source. The paper adds that despite this recommendation by the committee made at its recent meeting in Vienna, the OPEC ministers cannot resort to such an increase because they must take into consideration economic and political justifications which cannot be ignored.

Other Report

NC271958Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpt] Informed sources in Kuwait said today that the OPEC member states have agreed to raise oil prices by two percent every 3 months throughout 1979. The sources add that the increase in oil prices, which will reach eight percent in 1979, will be officially agreed on during the forthcoming OPEC meetings in Abu Dhabi in mid-December. The sources add that the increase represents a compromise between the view of Saudi Arabia, which is demanding that oil prices be reduced or increased slightly, and the views of Iraq and Kuwait, which are demanding a one-step 10-percent price rise.

AL-QABAS: U.S. TRYING TO ARRANGE ISRAELI-SYRIAN EXCHANGE ON GOLAN

LD271010Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 27 November--In a dispatch from Beirut today, a local paper reports that the United States is trying to arrange for an exchange of proposals between Syria and Israel concerning the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The question of the Golan was completely ignored in the Egyptian-Israeli-American Camp David peace agreements.

The newspaper AL-QABAS says that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has received information from Washington to the effect that the American Government has asked Syria to submit proposals concerning some of its territories that were occupied in 1967 in an attempt to exchange proposals and counterproposals at least indirectly between Syria and Israel. AL-QABAS adds that the U.S. policy in the Middle East includes a working program for the achievement of the following basic points: Insuring the success of the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks, insuring victory for the moderate current in the inter-Arab politics and paving the way for the creation of new atmosphere conducive to the holding of new Arab negotiations with Israel, and the maintaining of stability in the Arab Gulf area to prevent any infiltration by the "Soviet ghost" either in the Arab countries or in Iran.

Quoting "information" received by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, AL-QABAS writes that the United States in these attempts is relying on its ability to commit some Arab countries to following a moderate course. It is for this reason that the United States is now preparing for contacts soon with senior officials in Syria and Iraq in particular. "The information received does not rule out the holding of contacts even with the PLO," the paper concludes.

SAUDI ARABIA

SHI'ITE PILGRIMS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED FOR ANTI-SHAH AGITATION

TA251702Y Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Nov 25 (AFP)--Thirty-three Shi'ite pilgrims have been arrested in Mecca and two others on the pilgrimage are unaccounted for, said the Iranian opposition newsheet, NOWROUZ, published here. The newsheet said those arrested--29 Iranians and 4 Palestinians--were accused of causing political agitation in favour of Iranian opposition religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, now in exile here. Among the group is printer Abdollagih Ayatollahi, also a Paris resident, said NOWROUZ.

Yemen--PDRY

MENA; ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT MADE ON PDRY'S ISMA'IL

NC281312Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] San'a', 28 November--Reliable YAR sources have reported an attempt to assassinate 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Socialist Party in the PDRY, last Friday 24 November. The source said that it has not yet been revealed whether 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il was hit in this attempt or not. The sources said they believe that the would-be assassins belong to one of the factions in the current PDRY Government. They said that some of the people who took part in the attempt have been arrested.

Yemen--YAR

MENA: YAR REPORTS CLASHES BETWEEN PDRY MILITIA, ARMED FORCES

NC261051Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Text] San'a', 25 November--Informed sources in San'a' have stated that clashes took place today between the armed forces and the militia of the ruling party in Aden in the Ad-Dali' area. The sources added that the South Yemeni information media kept the news about these clashes, in which three people were killed and many wounded, secret.

PRESIDENT SALIH RECEIVES SENATOR PERCY

JN251436Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, at 1100 today received Senator Charles Percy, member of Congress, who is currently visiting the YAR as part of a swing through several Arab countries. A discussion took place during the meeting and dealt with possibilities of further consolidating and developing cooperation between the two friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Yahya (aj-Jagman), the personal representative of the president; 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the foreign minister; and George Lane, the U.S. Ambassador in San'a'.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SENDS REPORT TO AS-SADAT

NC272110Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 November--The Higher Technical Committee for Negotiations has presented its report on the progress of the peace negotiations to President Anwar as-Sadat.

In announcing this to MENA, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that no date has yet been fixed for President as-Sadat's meeting with the members of the committee.

Dr Ghali said that the higher committee for negotiations is continuing its task of studying all aspects of the development of the peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel during the coming phase.

MENA has learned that the report the committee has submitted to President as-Sadat contains all developments related to the peace process since the start of the negotiations, as well as various views and possibilities and the Egyptian working paper.

In light of this (?report), President as-Sadat will adopt a decision which he will communicate to the United States.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE REPORT

NC280750Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 November--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that the report prepared by the Higher Committee for the Peace Negotiations, which held a meeting yesterday under Vice President Husni Mubarak, contains the following documents:

1. The draft message which President Anwar as-Sadat will send to President Carter containing the basic and principal points of the Egyptian attitude on the proposed draft treaty, and the remarks which Egypt will seek to have introduced into some of its articles;

2. Egypt's view on the proposal which the United States made to Egypt and Israel that negotiations take place 1 month after the signing and ratification of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty to set the date for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and determinine the measures for establishing the autonomy institutions. These elections are to take place no later than December 1979. Egypt considered this U.S. proposal as a suitable basis for negotiations with a view to establishing the linkage and commitment to set up the autonomy institutions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

3. An Egyptian proposal regarding the drafting of the letters which can be exchanged to achieve the linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the establishment of the autonomy institutions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL TO GO TO WASHINGTON

NC280630Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has instructed Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil to go to Washington to meet with U.S. President Carter and hand him a message from President as-Sadat containing a full Egyptian assessment of the developments regarding the peace negotiations.

The prime minister is due to leave Cairo for Washington the evening of 29 November. He will meet with President Carter at the White House Friday morning.

MENA has learned that President as-Sadat's message to U.S. President Carter spells out in detail the Egyptian viewpoint regarding the proposed Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty and Egypt's specific proposals on how fully to link this draft to the creation of self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

MENA has also learned that after his visit to the U.S. capital, Dr Khalil will hold important talks in Britain, France, West Germany, Romania, Austria and Yugoslavia. He will be accompanied by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and member of the Egyptian delegation to the peace negotiations.

It is known that the United States will determine the next step in the peace negotiations as soon as it receives the Egyptian reply. It will hold consultations with the Israeli side at the highest level.

MORE EGYPTIAN TROOPS SAID DEPLOYED TO SUDAN

TA280929Y Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP)--Further Egyptian forces have been sent to Sudan to support President Ja'far Numayri, whose backing for the Camp David agreements has made reconciliation with the Sudanese opposition almost impossible, opposition leader Ash-Sharif al-Hindi said today.

The Sudanese Democratic Union party leader said in an interview in the Lebanese daily newspaper AS-SAFIR that the dispatch of Egyptian forces was one of the secret aspects of the Camp David agreements.

Army and air force troops had been deployed in Khartoum and elsewhere, and some units had even penetrated Chad.

Mr al-Hindi said President Numayri's policy was facing strong opposition throughout the country.

Earlier this month the AN-NAHAR newspaper in Beirut said Egypt was preparing to send more forces to Sudan, where communists were boosting their activities within the armed forces.

Egyptian troops stationed in Sudan come under a mutual defense treaty.

AS-SADAT COMMENTS AFTER MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN

NC251620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 November--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has stated that he has not made a decision regarding his visit to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Following his meeting today with a U.S. Congress delegation, President as-Sadat was asked whether he has failed to reach a decision on his visit to Oslo because of the present status of the talks. He said: Perhaps, but to a minor extent.

Asked whether the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel will be signed soon, he said: No comment. President as-Sadat added: In these crucial moments I must follow President Carter's method, which is discretion, in order to reach an agreement.

President as-Sadat was asked whether he still insists on a timetable. He said: Let us use President Carter's method, which we really need at this time.

Asked about the proposed Marshall Plan for the Middle East, President as-Sadat said: I have briefed my friends, the members of the Congress, on this. I am not obliged to disclose what I have told them.

Following the meeting, Senator Claiborne Pell said: We exchanged viewpoints with clarity and frankness. I thank President as-Sadat for receiving and welcoming us. His reception shows self-confidence.

Senator Henry Jackson said: I believe that the atmosphere is still appropriate. I see an agreement, but it will not come before Oslo when As-Sadat and Begin will receive the Nobel Prize. Senator Jackson added that there is a desire to complete what was achieved at Camp David.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ON WESTINGHOUSE BRIBERY CASE

NC2618462 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1613 GMT 26 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 November--Public Prosecutor Counselor Anwar Abu Sahla today announced the steps the public prosecution has taken with regard to allegations that former Deputy Prime Minister and Electricity Minister Engineer Ahmad Sultan received a $400,000 bribe from Westinghouse in return for the two contracts the Electricity Ministry signed with Westinghouse.

The public prosecutor said that on 25 October, the U.S. Government notified Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil of the action it has brought against the company, which has been charged with giving a bribe for two contracts it signed with the Egyptian Electricity Ministry. The prime minister then notified the public prosecutor of the case and asked him to take the necessary measures according to the law.

He said: In view of the fact that Engineer Sultan is a member of the People's Assembly and enjoys parliamentary immunity, no criminal action can be taken against him without prior permission from the assembly, unless he is caught redhanded. He added that the public prosecution will not ask for divesting the accused member of his immunity except after [words indistinct] available, allowing for a request to divest him of his immunity.

The public prosecutor said that the Egyptian Government has prepared a draft agreement for exchanging the documents and evidence related to the case with the United States because these documents are now in the United States.

He said that a member of the public prosecution will leave for the United States soon to examine all the documents and evidence related to the charges brought against Engineer Ahmad Sultan, and to request official copies of the evidence which has been presented to the U.S. court about Westinghouse giving bribes for the signing of the two contracts..

The public prosecutor noted that the prosecution has not actually begun investigating the case for two reasons: first, the documents and evidence are in the United States; and second, the question of divesting Engineer Sultan of parliamentary immunity. He said that Engineer Sultan has not been (?charged) and all that has been done is that some measures have been taken to expedite the investigations.

The public prosecutor noted that cases of public property will become the concern of ordinary courts as of 1 December, in accordance with the prime minister's decision. Therefore, if the charges are proved, the case will not be brought before the supreme state security court.

DECISION ISSUED APPOINTING NEW GOVERNORS

NC280620Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 November--President Anwar as-Sadat tonight issued a republican decision appointing the following new governors:

Cairo: Muhammad Sa'd ad-Din Ma'mun
Alexandria: Dr Muhammad Fu'ad Hilmi
Asyut: Muhammad 'Uthman Isma'il
Algharbiyah: Ahmad as-Sayyid 'Abd al-Hadi al-Qasabi
Al-Buhayrah: Husayn Kamil Muhammad Khalil Dabbus
Matruh: Ibrahim Fu'ad Muhammad Nassar
Port Said: Muhammad Sarhan
Red Sea: 'Ali Ahmad Muhammad 'Uthman
Al-Minufiyah: Mahmud Muhammad Mahrus Abu Husayn
Qina: 'Abd al-Mun'im Huzayyin
Ad-Daqahliyah: Sa'd Muhammad ash-Sharbini
Kafr ash-Shaykh: Muhammad Fathallah Salamah
Dumyat: Abu Bakr Mansur al-Jammal
Suez: Ahmad Hilmi Badr
Al-Jizah: 'Abd al-Fattah Mahmud 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Azzam
North Sinai: Muhammad Husayn Shawkat
South Sinai: Farid 'Izzat Wahbah Nakhlah
Al-Fayyum: Dr Hamdi Husayn al-Hakim
Bani Suwayf: Dr Muhammad Wafa' ad-Din Mahmud Jalal
Al-Minya: Faruq Muhammad Admad 'Afifi
Sawhaj: Dr Muhammad Jalal ad-Din Abu adh-Dhahab
Al-Qalyubiyah: Dr Ahmad Fahim Muhammad Fahim
Ash-Sharqiyah: 'Abd al-Karim Hasan Muhammad 'Abd al-Karim
Aswan: Ahmad Taha Muhammad
Ismailia: 'Abd al-Mu'in 'Abd al-Majid 'Amarah
Al-Wadi al-Jadid: Mahmud Fawzi Muhammad al-Buruns.

MENA REPORTS ON EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE INTEGRATION TALKS

JN251134Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 25 November--Sudanese Minister of Agriculture, Nutrition and Natural Resources Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Abdallah today arrived in Cairo on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

On arrival, the Sudanese minister said that he will meet with his Egyptian counterpart, Dr Mahmud Muhammad Da'ud, and will discuss agricultural integration projects. These projects, the minister added, will be forwarded to the Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration during its meetings in Khartoum next January.

In addition, Engineer al-Rayyih 'Abd as-Salam, head of the Sudanese side at the Joint Nile Technical Commission, is to hold talks with Engineer 'Abd al-Hadi Samahah, Egyptian minister of irrigation, regarding irrigation projects of common interest.

Engineer 'Abd as-Salam will participate in the meetings of the Sudanese-Egyptian Technical Integration Committee due to begin tomorrow in Cairo and scheduled to last 5 days.

EGYPTIAN, UAE PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET, FORM COMMITTEE

NC271926Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 November--People's Assembly Speaker Sufi Abu Talib today received UAE National Council Deputy Speaker Hamad Abu Shihab and UAE Ambassador to Egypt Sayf Ibn 'Ali al-Jarwan. They reviewed the current Arab situation and the Arab parliamentarians' role in consolidating Arab solidarity.

Fawzi al-'Umdah, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee and secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union, who attended the meeting, has stated that it was agreed during the meeting to form an Arab parliamentary committee under UAE National Council Speaker and Chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union Taryam 'Imran. Egypt, Syria, Sudan, the Palestinian National Council and the UAE will each have a member in the committee. The task of the committee is to follow up and coordinate the proposals for consolidating Arab solidarity it will be receiving from the Arab parliamentarians.

Meanwhile, Fawzi al-'Umdah will leave Cairo for the UAE tomorrow, Tuesday, for consultations with Taryam 'Imran on fixing a date for convening a meeting of the committee and another date for convening a meeting of the Executive Council of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which is scheduled to convene in Abu Dhabi in January.

VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES

NC280740Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 November--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports that Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak will visit Sudan, Oman, and the YAR to brief the heads of these states on Egypt's position and the developments in the peace talks.

The paper says that this tour is scheduled to begin after Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil returns from his visit to Washington and some European states.

AL-AKHBAR also says that the vice president may also visit three other states in addition to those named.

CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER, DELEGATION ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN261423Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 November--Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation for an official visit to Iraq that will last several days.

Premier Strougal was accorded an official reception at Al-Muthanna Airport in Baghdad. At the head of those who received him was Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn. He was also received by RCC members, ministers, high-ranking state officials, and the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited in Baghdad.

The delegation accompanying Premier Strougal includes Finance Minister Leopold Ler, Foreign Trade Minister Andrej Barcak, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (Milos Fotya) [title and name as received], and several other officials.

Al-Bakr Meets Strougal

JN281145Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here this morning Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the means to develop them in various fields. They also discussed the most important Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the Iraqi ambassador in Prague and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Baghdad.

SADDAM HUSAYN DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

JN261354Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 November--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has declared that Iraq has chosen cohesion with Syria as a means to "reach comprehensive unity."

Saddam Husayn explained that this choice came as a result of "awareness and determination," and not as a result of an emotional or regional outlook. He said he proceeded from a historic outlook toward the Arab nation and its future in order to preserve its future and revive the hopes of the Arab masses so that they might be capable of confronting their enemies and building the present and future of the Arabs.

Saddam Husayn said: Our new relationship with Syria should be a unionist relationship. It is not a relationship of a neighborly policy, because Syria is not a foreign country to us.

Saddam Husayn was speaking in a session held by the planning council here this morning.

Saddam Husayn said: The political structure in the two countries, Syria and Iraq, and the difficult circumstances that the Arab nation is facing make it unsuitable and improper to have Iraqi-Syrian relations as merely relations of cordiality, special relationships, or neighborliness.

Speaking about the requirements of the economic situation in light of the changing political factors that made Iraq an area of one struggle with Syria, Saddam Husayn said: Syria will "find aid from all the advanced Iraqi capabilities." He explained that our economy, budget and development plan must be drawn up according to these bases.

Saddam Husayn explained that we must prepare for the building of a unionist base "better than what has already been achieved in this regard."

In this connection he affirmed the significance of benefiting from the lessons of the past "not in order to hesitate or act indecisively, but in order to formulate sound pan-Arab unionist action formulas," in a manner that provides a sound basis for the unionist structure in a rational and daring manner and on the basis of sacrifice.

Saddam Husayn said: Therefore, what is required is to build the foundations of the unionist action in a quick and delicate manner, but not in a rash manner, and with a revolutionary, not traditional time.

Concluding his statement, Saddam Husayn said: We will work in a benevolent way to build the nucleus of the Arabs' great state. The Iraqis are ready to sacrifice blood and money for the sake of the revolutionary principles to build this state.

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM SOVIET UNION

JN251417Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 November--'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, returned here this evening at the end of a 4-day visit to the Soviet Union.

During the visit, the Iraqi defense minister held talks with Soviet officials on the means of strengthening relations between the Soviet Union and Iraq.

SOVIET MARITIME FLEET MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN271502Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 November--L.P. Nedyak, deputy minister of the Soviet Maritime Fleet Ministry [title as received], arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a 6-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, Mr Nedyak will participate in the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Soviet subcommittee for trade shipping, stemming from the joint committee for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet official will also hold discussions with Iraqi officials on means to develop cooperation in the field of cargo transport.

LABOR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH MOROCCO

JN271958Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Labor and Social Affairs Minister Bakr Mahmud Rasul this evening received Moroccan Minister of Social Affairs and Traditional Industries Abdallah Gharnit and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, which was attended by Iraqi Labor and Social Affairs Ministry under secretary, Jasim Muhammad (?Zahir), they discussed cooperation in social and technical issues and means to develop this cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

It will be recalled that the Moroccan minister arrived in Baghdad yesterday to participate in the 5th conference of the Arab labor and social affairs ministers, which began its meetings in Baghdad today.

RCC BROADENS LAW ON REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS

JN242031Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided that the provisions of RCC Decision No 1059 of 13 August 1978 shall apply to prisoners released from jail after the 17 July revolution. The following is the text of the decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC decided the following at its session held on 22 November 1978:

1. The provisions of RCC Decision No 1059 of 13 August 1978 shall apply to prisoners released from jail after the 17 July 1968 revolution.

2. The competent ministers shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, RCC chairman.

It will be recalled that on 13 August 1978, the RCC decided, in accordance with the provisions of RCC Decision No 958 of 16 July 1978, to return all prisoners released from jail to the posts and jobs which they had held before entering prison.

The RCC also decided that RCC Decision No 958 of 16 July 1978 shall apply to all prisoners and those convicted prior to 16 July 1978. Following is the text of the decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC decided the following at its session held on 22 November 1978:

1. The provisions of RCC Decision No 958 of 16 July 1978 shall apply to prisoners sentenced prior to 16 July whether their sentences have been completed or not.

2. The competent ministers shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, RCC chairman.

AFP: JORDAN CONSIDERING AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

TA251657Y Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 25 (AFP)--King Husayn of Jordan may grant a complete amnesty to all political prisoners and others sentenced in absentia, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reported today.

The total of political prisoners in Jordan, about 60, includes members of the Palestinian Command, the paper said.

According to informed political sources in Amman quoted by the paper, the amnesty would be discussed in Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations involving delegates from the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

In the event of a successful outcome to the talks, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO, would visit Jordan as proof of good will, the paper said.

KING HUSAYN, QUEEN NUR RETURN FROM IRAN VISIT

JN281234Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned home at noon today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iran. During the visit, his majesty met with his majesty the shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Their majesties were welcomed on arrival by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, senior government officials and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman.

His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain and His Excellency Lt Col Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, armed forces commander in chief, returned with their majesties.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS SENATOR JACKSON'S STATEMENT ON ARAB OIL

JN250836Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 78 pp 1, 17 JN

[Editorial: "The Irony of Fate"]

[Text] To those who have shown patience up to now with the Egyptian-Israeli march; to those who thought that the distances separating them from the Israeli focus in the Arab homeland might save them from the Israeli wolf, we present them with the statements of Zionist Senator Henry Jackson in which he specified "the required result" of that march.

The result, as he said, is represented in forming an Egyptian-Israeli alliance that would be a nucleus for a Western alliance in the area to protect the sources of Western energy. Yes, this is what Jackson said. Let those who do not yet know learn that the goal of all that is taking place is to spread the influence of an Egyptian-Israeli alliance over the Arab oil wells which he described as Western energy sources.

Thus, the role being prepared for Israel as a result of the peace treaty with Egypt is to dominate the Arab oil resources with the help of Egypt and the West. This role has become crystal clear, and Senator Jackson has announced it publicly in the hearing of the Arab oil countries, others and the whole world. What can be said after this, in what language and in what more obvious way so the Arab brothers can understand that a new unprecedented catastrophe is on the verge of befalling them?

What Jackson has said is not only defiance of and a provocation against the whole Arab nation, but also a bribe he wanted to offer to Cairo. Jackson's statement suggests as if it appeals to Cairo to take abundantly from Arab oil with the participation of Israel and the West, as soon as the agreement between Egypt and Israel is completed, because protection of the oil wells will not be for nothing.

The Arabs now want to hear Cairo's opinion of what Jackson has said. Yes, the Arabs want to know if Egypt considers itself and Israel the stout protectors of Arab oil.

What an irony of fate! Egypt is called to join hands with Israel, which has stolen Jerusalem and the sanctities; the Arab land in the West Bank and Gaza, the Sinai and the Golan, and Egyptian oil in the Gulf of Suez, to enable the thief to get close to the Arab oil wells under the pretext of protecting them.

Arab gentlemen, do you now believe what only a short time ago appeared as dreams and illusions? Do you believe now that your oil is within reach of the Israeli thief? You people in charge have heard what Jackson said in the hearing of the whole world.

The Baghdad summit conference rang the bell of danger. It is the same bell that Jordan has repeatedly rung. Perhaps ears are now listening. We hope that the Baghdad summit resolutions will begin to materialize as soon as possible since they are the minimum Arab efforts which must be exerted to build a wall of civilization to protect the rest of our land and heritage in the face of the Zionist tide which Egypt is wanted to support with the help of the West.

The danger marching toward the Arab oil wells ought to have been realized when Jerusalem was usurped. We wish they would realize today that the danger will not be repelled without the restoration of Jerusalem.

WEST BANK 'SATISFIED' WITH JORDAN-PLO TALKS

JN271550Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 27 November--Satisfaction has prevailed in the various quarters in the occupied West Bank following the arrival of the Palestinian delegation to Amman and the official talks held with Jordanian officials with the aim of strengthening and consolidating rapprochement between Jordan and the PLO. Papers published in the occupied land report that this satisfaction was reflected in the public's interest in following up reports about the Jordanian-Palestinian talks through the Jordanian papers and the Amman radio station and television service.

LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ARAB-AFRICAN BANK

JN221748Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] A loan agreement was signed today at the Central Bank between the Jordanian Government and the Arab-African bank in participation with other banks to finance the third stage of the King Husayn thermal powerplant and other development projects outlined in the 5-year development plan, including the development of the Jordan Valley, the potash project and the phosphate fertilizers project.

The $40 million-loan agreement was signed for Jordan by Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas and for the Arab-African Bank by Board Director Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ibrahim and representatives of the banks participating in the loan.

LEBANESE FORCES COMMAND MEETS, ELECTS COMMAND COUNCIL

NC272125Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command held its periodic meeting at 1800 today under the Lebanese Forces commander, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil. The members of the Command Council and the General Staff attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Lebanese Forces Command Council was elected. Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil was unanimously elected council chairman and commander of the Lebanese Forces, Abu Kamal was elected deputy commander and Nabil Karam chief of the general staff. The posts of secretary general and the heads of branches remained unchanged.

After the elections, the command met with the military officials of the Lebanese Forces in the Third Sector--Badaru, Furn ash-Shubbak, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Ash-Shiyah, At-Tahwitah and Al-'Adliyah--and heard the reports and proposals of the officials responsible for this sector on recent events in the areas of the Third Sector.

The command then continued its meeting and charged (?some) of its members with the task of submitting a report that will include radical solutions that will put a decisive end to all kinds of violations in the free areas.

The command adjourned its meeting at 2000. It will meet again on Wednesday in an extraordinary session to study the aforementioned report and adopt measures to implement it.

BUTRUS DENIES REPORTS HE INTENDS TO RESIGN

NC272145Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus made a statement to the Voice of Lebanon before leaving for Paris today. Commenting on press reports about his intention to resign from the Defense Ministry, Minister Butrus said: There is no truth to the reports that I intend to resign from the Defense Ministry. If I wanted to do so, I would not have been satisfied with resigning only from the Defense Ministry; I would also have resigned from the Foreign Ministry and consequently from the government.

He added: However, I have not considered taking such a step, at least not during the current phase in the history of Lebanon, because I am very eager not to take any step that would create a government crisis in Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SARKIS' VISIT TO FRANCE

LD271624Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] Here is an interview granted to our permanent correspondent in Beirut, Christian Billman [name as heard], by Mr Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese foreign minister, on the significance of the visit of Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to Paris and on what the Lebanese expect from it: [begin recording]

[Butrus] I know that no decisions or resolutions and statements contributing directly and quickly to the solution of our complicated problems can result from our visit to France. Nevertheless, I expect from our visit to France a dialog--a clarification of some issues, of some positions--in order to put matters in their real context, and to try to see how our problems are seen by our friends in the West and to ask them--in as much as the situation justifies this--for their help and support in order to resolve the variety of issues which make up the Lebanese problem.

France is better prepared than any other European country first of all to recognize our problems, next to understand them, and finally to help us in resolving them on more than one level.

[Question] What do you think about France's actions during the past few months? In practice, France has taken action by sending the greatest contingent of blue helmets to Lebanon. Do you intend to ask for an extension of the mandate of these blue helmets (?for the coming months)?

[Answer] I think that the reasons which justified the setting up of the (?UN emergency forces) and thus the sending of the French contingent remain the same today. They exist and (?have been confirmed) on the spot, as in the political situation, in such a way that it appears to me that the reasons which justified the setting up of these forces act in favor of a renewal of their mandate.

I also think that France--taking into account the motives for its gesture--should continue to participate in [word indistinct] under the same conditions, and this notwithstanding the numerous difficulties which hinder the implementation of the mandate of these forces. [end recording]

LEADERS MAKE STATEMENTS TO FRENCH MEDIA

NC280845Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] In his first statement to the press and television after his arrival in Paris, President Ilyas Sarkis praised the attitude of France, a friendly country. He defined the aims he himself is working for and said: The French position is encouraging. This is not at all strange, as it derives from the traditional friendship which France has for Lebanon and from French traditions of the defense of justice and the rights of peoples--the right of Lebanon to establish its sovereignty over all its territory, to revive its democracy and to restore its prosperity with the help of its sons.

He added: France's distinctive position both in the Arab world and in the world community makes me hope that my talks with President Giscard d'Estaing will be fruitful, because France can play a positive role that could help implement suitable solutions to the Lebanese tragedy.

Earlier, President Sarkis spoke in a press interview with LE MONDE on the need for assistance by international organizations and all our friends in this colossal job. He said: I am confident that France will be in the vanguard. President Sarkis stressed that Lebanon stands on its feet even if it does not have all the means, and he added: We hope with the assistance of our Arab brothers and the friendly states to be able to consolidate our institutions and rebuild all that needs to be built.

In an interview with French television last night, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said he hopes the talks with the French leaders will contribute to developing relations with France. He said: We must remember the great understanding and sympathy which France showed toward the Lebanese crisis.

Prime Minister al-Huss said he believes his talks with French officials will help define the ways in which France can help.

He said France has a role in assisting Lebanon to end its tragedy, particularly in view of the distinguished position which France occupies in the international arena. As every one knows, the Lebanese crisis has international repercussions and implications.

Prime Minister al-Huss said that the Lebanese problem is closely linked with the Middle East crisis. Israeli intervention in the Lebanese crisis is now apparent and an undeniable fact. Therefore, we are hoping for positive and fruitful talks with the French leaders.

Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus has given two separate television statements in which he said that the visit is part of the contacts which Lebanon is conducting and wishes to expand, beginning with France. Butrus recalled the strong traditional ties between the two countries and the positive role which France can play in Lebanon, in the whole area and in the world by utilizing its friendship at various levels. However, he added that this does not entitle France to replace the Lebanese themselves, who can solve their problems through understanding.

ADF SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON FIRING AT LEBANESE PLANES

NC271127Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1102 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis left Beirut International Airport at around 1200 today for the French capital at the official invitation of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

When the presidential plane took off, it was escorted by two Lebanese Air Force planes which at first flew at low altitude and then escorted the president's plane until it left Lebanese airspace. Meanwhile, firing was heard and it is understood that this fire was opened in the air by mistake.

Upon contacting the Arab Deterrent Forces Command, we have received the following: After the presidential plane had taken off, an intensified armed presence was observed in the areas adjacent to Beirut International Airport. This has surprised and worried the citizens.

When an Arab Deterrent Forces Command official was asked about the incident, he answered as follows: At 1130 today, two Lebanese Air Force planes flew in two successive sorties at low altitude over Beirut International Airport on the occasion of the president's departure to Paris today.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE SUFFERING FROM BLOOD CLOT IN BRAIN

LD241418Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 24 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Here is the latest bulletin on the health of President Boumediene: The doctors looking after him at Mustafa Hospital in Algiers have localized a blood clot in the brain. This is thought to be causing the coma which he has been in for a week. The doctors envisage an operation. Tests were begun this morning to see if Houari Boumediene is in condition to be able to undergo the operation.

No Surgery

OW251116Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0110 GMT 25 Nov 78 OW

[Text] Algiers, 25 Nov (AFP)--An international team of top medical specialists last night gave up scheduled brain surgery to try to remove the blood clot that has plunged Algerian President Houari Boumediene into a deep coma for the past week. Reliable sources said the medical team decided on the basis of neurological responses that Mr. Boumediene was unlikely to survive the operation.

The decision came after doctors spent the evening studying readings of sophisticated West German brain-sounding equipment rushed here to locate the clot that has blocked the circulation of blood to the president's brain since last Saturday. The readings apparently showed that operating was too dangerous and that it was better to concentrate treatment on the slight nervous reflexes that have responded to stimulation in the past couple of days.

The sources said the possibility of surgery was not entirely ruled out for later on, but that British brain surgeon Alan Crockart who flew to President Boumediene's beside would return home today.

Earlier, sources had expressed fear that if the brain clot were left too long, it would be impossible to reactivate the president's brain. Mr. Boumediene's condition suddenly worsened a week ago, shortly after returning home from a visit to the Soviet Union, where he reportedly underwent surgery for a serious urological illness.

Boumediene Out of Coma

TA261619Y Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 26 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Algiers, Nov 26 (AFP)--Algerian President Houari Boumediene has partly emerged out of his deep coma and is responding to verbal orders such as "open your eyes," reliable sources said here today.

The first signs of neurological reaction by the president appeared on Thursday night and have become progressively stronger since then, the sources said.

Because of the marked improvement demonstrated by Col. Boumediene's ability to respond to instructions to open or close his eyes, medical specialists at least temporarily abandoned the idea of carrying out a dangerous surgical operation on him, they added.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES FROLINAT DELEGATION

LD252120Y Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, November 25, JANA--Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress a delegation from Chad Liberation Movement (FROLINAT) headed by Mr. Goukouni Quaddeimi.

SUDAN

SUNA REPORTS SENATOR MCGOVERN'S ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM

JN261215Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 26, (SUNA)--Senator George McGovern, member of the U.S. Congress for South Dakota State, arrived here last mid-night to attend the African-American conference scheduled to be held here tomorrow.

Another 16 U.S. and African delegates have arrived on the same plane.

The delegates were welcomed at Khartoum airport by the state foreign minister, Dr. Francis Deng.

African-American Conference

JN251828Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Nov 25 (SUNA)--The African-American conference will be held here, Nov 27-30, under the auspices of the Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri who will address the opening session at 10 am local (8 am GMT) on Monday Nov 27.

The conference is organized by the Afro-American Institute which includes some American congressmen, business men, academicians, others interested in African affairs and some African opposite numbers as well.

The African-American conference aims at highlighting African issues and creating the proper climate for consultations and understanding between American and African leaders.

The Khartoum African-American conference is the biggest gathering of its kind.

The conference will be attended by some American prominent figures such as Senators Dick Clark, George McGovern and Charles M. Percy. It will also be attended by U.S. top officials like Mr Andrew Young, U.S. permanent representative to U.N., and Mr Richard Moose, assistant secretary of state for Africa.

From Africa 25 countries will be represented in this conference.

Countries represented by foreign ministers are Nigeria, Kenya, Sudan, Lesotho, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Upper Volta. Zambia will be represented by its state minister for foreign [affairs]. The representatives to the U.N. of Tanzania, Zambia and Nigeria will also take part in the conference.

Botswana, Zaire, Egypt and Ghana will be presented at ambassadorial level.

Other African states--Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Libya, Liberia, Guinea, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau--will be represented by members of parliament or officials from president's office. From S. Africa churchmen, officials from the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and editors of the VOICE and the POST newspapers will attend.

The South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) will be represented by its vice-president and Mr Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo will come for the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

LD242056Y Tunis TAP in English 1614 GMT 24 Nov 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Excerpt] Tunis, Nov 24 (PAP)--Led by Bladimir Terebilov, the Russian republic justice minister and chairman of the USSR-Tunisia friendly society, now on an official visit to Tunisia. [sentence as received] The Russian delegation was respectively received by Hedi Nouira, Tunisian premier, Mohamed Sayah, director of the party and Tijani Abid, secretary general of the Tunisian Trade Union Association (UGTT).

In his talks with the Tunisian officials, Vladimir Terebilov mentioned the role played by the USSR-Tunisia friendly society in strengthening the friendly relations linking the two countries. The interest given by the two countries to the intensifying of exchanging delegations of all kinds, as well as the two parties' determination to act for the promotion of the Tunisian-Russian cooperation, the foundations of which were laid by the visits made respectively to Tunisia, [in] May 1975 by Aleksey Kosygin and to the Soviet Union, [in] April 1977 by Hedi Nouira.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON GDR TRADE MINISTER'S VISIT TO TUNISIA

LD241812Y Tunis TAP in English 1607 GMT 24 Nov 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Nov 24 (TAP)--The Tunisian-East German joint statement published at the end of East Germany Minister for External Trade Horst Soelle's visit to Tunisia indicates that the first session of the Tunisian-East German joint commission, set up by the trade agreement signed in November 30, 1973, held a meeting in Tunis. Slaheddine Mbarek, Tunisian minister for trade and Horst Soelle who led their respective country's delegations during the proceedings of this commission, signed Wednesday, November 22, the following documents:

--A frame-agreement on economic, industrial and technical co-operation

--An exchange of letters which deal with the extension of the validity of the long-term trade agreement for a 5-year period

--The official report of the 1st session of the Tunisian-East German joint commission.

The talks between the delegations of both countries made possible the checking up of the economic relations and the commercial exchanges between Tunisia and East Germany on the one hand, and the setting up of measures and means likely to reinforce and enlarge the bilateral co-operation in the fields of trade and industry, on the other hand.

WESTERN SAHARAN

SUCCESSFUL AMBUSH OF MOROCCAN UNIT REPORTED

LD260333Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry this evening released a military communique on the successful operations of the Saharan liberation army in Morocco. On 23 November the Saharan fighters ambushed a Moroccan unit 10 km east of the Lemsid garrison. Seventeen Moroccan troops were killed in the attack, and a similar number were wounded. In addition, six vehicles were destroyed and quantities of arms and ammunition were captured.

ALGIERS REPORTS DETENTION AFTER EL AAIUN, DAKHLA DEMONSTRATIONS

LD261140Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] In the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, following popular demonstrations against the occupier in El Aaiun and Dakhla, arrests have taken place. Like the demonstrations by our people in El Aaiun--the representative of the POLISARIO Front in Europe (?said)--those in Dakhla, which took place 4 days ago, were strictly suppressed by the Moroccan occupation authorities. A great number of our citizens were sent to prison, he added, while others were jailed and released after being interrogated and tortured on various police premises. [Words indistinct] the Saharan representative appealed to international bodies to bring to an end the occupation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

MK PERES COMMENTS ON DRAFT PEACE TREATY

TA251936Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, has said that the political appendix talking of the establishment of correct and normal relations between Egypt and Israel is satisfactory since this is the way relations of peace should be. However, in his opinion, the problem does not lie in the formulation of things but in the implementation, especially with regard to the linkage issue between the agreement with Egypt and the autonomy plan--which is a bad plan in the Labor Party's opinion.

MK Peres said he is not yet prepared to state how the Labor Party will vote in the Knesset when this treaty is submitted for ratification. However, if a separate vote is held on the autonomy plan he believes that most Alinement Knesset members will oppose it.

Further Peres Remarks

NC260956Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says that, in his opinion, the peace pact between Israel and Egypt will eventually be signed despite the difficulties. He added, however, that after conclusion of the agreements, greater difficulties will crop up concerning the autonomy issue in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. He noted that the autonomy issue--not the linkage--is the cause of difficulties, because had this been a good plan, the linkage issue would not have raised any problems.

In Shim'on Peres' opinion, one of the most difficult problems will be determining the power of the autonomy institutions; he foresees hard bargaining on this point. Peres voiced these remarks at Ben-Gurion Airport before leaving for a 1-week visit to New York, in order to make appearances there on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and the loan bonds.

Yadin Reaction to Treaty

TA251822Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent says that the version [of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty] as published in AL-AHRAM yesterday has aroused much anger in Jerusalem because of inaccuracies regarding the sixth clause of the treaty, which deals with the preference to be given the peace treaty with respect to other treaties.

Another reaction in Israel to the peace treaty: Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin said that two major problems are now left--Egypt's demand to set a detailed timetable for the establishment of autonomy and its refusal to accept clause 6. As for the oil issue, the deputy prime minister said he believes a solution will be found for this. As for the military appendix, he said that there are still one or two details that should be concluded.

As for clause No 2 of the military agreement, stating that the border between Israel and Egypt is the international one without harming the status of the Gaza Strip, Professor Yadin said this is in fact a compromise formula since both parties have acknowledged the special problem of the Gaza Strip.

LABOR PARTY EXPRESSES CONCERN AT BREAK IN NEGOTIATIONS

NC261235Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Nov 78 NC

[Text] The Labor Party has expressed concern about the unnecessary postponements in negotiations now that they are on the verge of being concluded. A statement by the Labor Party's reaction team says that one of the factors in this unnecessary postponement was the distorted and premature publication of the peace treaty by Egypt--which in turn led to Israel's premature publication of the pact.

MORNING PRESS COMMENTS ON STALLED PEACE TALKS

TA280730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] DAVAR thinks that the freeze in the negotiations between Israel and Egypt will not last up to the date set for the Oslo ceremony. Last week, the foreign minister sounded very firm indeed when he said that after the decision of the Israeli Government there was no more need to renew the negotiations. Now Jerusalem is explaining that there is no point in renewing the negotiations as long as there is no reply from Egypt to the U.S. proposals, but there is certainly room to resume the negotiations if Egypt's reply justifies this. It is to be hoped that this is how it will be, despite the remaining differences of opinion. The gap between the sides' positions is not so large that it will be impossible to bridge it without too many suspensions [of the talks].

In the view of HA'AREZ, there is no reason to doubt that peace with Egypt will finally be signed and that the knot disturbing us for the moment will also be untied, with U.S. aid. A separate question is whether the cabinet position does not deepen U.S. influence above and beyond the needed and desirable rate, when, on every issue, it is necessary to depend on official Washington to get out of the complications of an Egyptian-Israeli controversy. But this worry does not for the moment disturb the prime minister's rest.

NOWINIE KURIER thinks that attention should be paid to what is happening within U.S. public opinion, since it is very important that it should be sympathetic toward us. Otherwise, Israel's interests will be abandoned in the United States.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that there is no doubt that Israel has done everything it can, in the autonomy program and in the declaration that there will be no foreign rule in Judaea and Samaria, to prevent Jordan's incorporation in the peace processes between Egypt and Israel. Thus Israel has unwillingly aided the possibility that a hostile Eastern rejectionist front will very rapidly be crystallized, against both Camp David and Israel. It may be that negotiations with Egypt will be resumed and that a way will be found to sign the peace treaty. But, even so, the most difficult problem is that of the Palestinians, which has negligible chances of solution given the background of the government's current policy.

SHE'ARIM thinks that it is possible to be brave enough to say that the richer the Arab country, the stronger its position regarding peace with Israel. The naive among us dream of raising the standard of living in Egypt. They would be better advised to think about the fact that if the miracle happens, Egypt will not join the rejectionist front.

RESUMPTION OF TALKS DEPENDS ON EGYPT'S RESPONSE

TA280958Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Authoritative government sources said yesterday that if the Egyptians provide a response that justifies resumption of negotiations, the Israeli delegation will return to the Washington deliberations.

Israel is not prepared to enter any new deliberations about the draft of the peace treaty, but it would be prepared to discuss the draft of accompanying letters on the negotiations for autonomy, if there is no ultimative demand for a binding timetable. On several occasions in the past few days, including in his conversation with the U.S. senators' delegation, Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that Israel's declaration, to the effect that negotiations with Egypt on implementing the autonomy would be resumed within a month of peace treaty ratification, with the aim of concluding them and holding elections to the Autonomy Council in the near future, still stands.

It appears that there are no differences of opinion between Begin and Dayan on this issue and the foreign minister's public statements on this issue were tactical. Some of them were also intended for internal consumption. Dayan will be prepared to return to Washington if he gets a flexible mandate from the government to conclude the letter on the matter of negotiations concerning implementation of autonomy.

Jerusalem will decide on this issue after Egypt's position becomes known. Thus, if necessary, the cabinet will again be convened toward the end of the week for this matter.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT ON ISRAELI SINAI PROJECTS

TA241537Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Development Directorate of Merhav Shelomo [southern Sinai administrative district], Re'uven Alloni, disclosed that negotiations are being conducted with Egypt with the purpose of leaving economic projects such as guesthouses and holiday resorts along the Red Sea coast in the hands of Israeli entrepreneurs and under Egyptian rule, after Sharm ash-Shaykh is returned to Egypt. Alloni talked with our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, saying that after signing the peace treaty Israel will raise additional problems connected with the future of Sharm ash-Shaykh in the coming 3 years. An Israeli-Egyptian committee will deal with current problems that will arise in the wake of the peace treaty's conclusion.

Alloni said that next week the directorate will begin giving easy-term loans to the Ofira residents in order to help those owning workshops and plants to maintain themselves over the coming 3 years. The help in question is a fund of 1.5 million Israeli pounds, from which loans with 19 percent interest will be given.

Our correspondent has learned that a proposal was raised in the Housing Ministry to begin negotiations with the United Nations, offering it the structures the Housing Ministry built in Sharm ash-Shaykh. The intention is to sell the 500 apartments erected in Ofira in addition to adjacent public institutes. The Housing and Construction Ministry has invested 400 million Israeli pounds in building all this.

INTERIM SINAI PACT SHOWS WAY OUT ON LINKAGE ISSUE

TA270639Y Jerusalem POST in English 27 Nov 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial: "Bridging the Gaps"]

[Text] Beyond the question of who is responsible for the release of what part of the draft peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, there is the issue of substance: How to bridge the existing differences of approach between the parties.

Egypt fears that without a time-table for implementation of autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip it would in effect be leaving the Palestinians to the mercies of Israel. That would make Egypt an all too easy butt of criticism all around the Arab world.

At the same time, Egypt must acknowledge that Israel cannot be held to a precise and detailed time-table for a scheme the execution of which depends on parties other than the treaty signatories themselves. Egypt would like an early date for holding autonomy elections, linking it in fact with the first concrete steps toward normalizing relations with Israel. Mr Begin quite rightly objects to such a tie-in. The U.S. suggestion to set the deadline for the end of 1979 is more reasonable; nevertheless it still links the treaty with Egypt to the West Bank.

Perhaps the model of the interim Sinai agreements could be useful as a way out. There some difficult issues between Egypt and Israel were resolved by making commitments not to each other, but rather to the U.S.

On another issue, namely, article VI of the treaty, which provides that the obligations of the peace pact supersede all others, Egypt is still reluctant. But clearly it must give way. In so doing, Egypt would be renouncing its commitments under the Arab League defence pact, and therefore it is objecting. But that is an inescapable corollary of the very notion of peace between Egypt and Israel.

The "defence" contemplated by the Arab League was aimed at the very existence of Israel as a state. The military agreement worked out for the purpose was conceived in the spirit of undying enmity, and it remains to this day the instrument of aggressive warfare. For Egypt to continue to be bound by it would be to play into the hands of the very agents-provocateurs who are already seeking ways of blowing the treaty to smithereens. It is impossible to reconcile adherence to the Arab League defence pact and to a peace treaty with Israel. These two agreements are contradiction itself.

BEGIN TO GO TO OSLO REGARDLESS OF AS-SADAT'S DECISION

TA280738Y Jerusalem POST in English 28 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Premier Menahem Begin plans to fly to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize awarding ceremony on December 10, whether Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, the prize co-winner, decides to attend or not.

As-Sadat was reported as having said in Cairo that he would not travel to Oslo unless Israel and Egypt reach agreement over a draft peace treaty.

Begin will go to Oslo on the eve of the ceremony and will stay for 2 days as guest of the Norwegian monarch. Scores of newsmen, foreign and local, have already applied for credentials to accompany Begin to Oslo.

WEST BANK PUBLIC FIGURES REJECT EGYPTIAN OVERTURES

TA261302Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Nov 78 p 3 TA

[By Yosef Zufi'el]

[Text] East Jerusalem and West Bank public figures have recently turned down invitations to visit Cairo, separately or together, in order to discuss the future of held territories with the Egyptian authorities.

It was learned from Arab sources yesterday that the appeals to the Arab personages came from Egyptian diplomats serving in Western Europe, with the purpose of coopting East Jerusalem and West Bank personalities in the discussion of issues pertaining to them.

In the opinion of these Arab sources, Egyptian representatives have addressed Arab personages considered moderate by Israel, although their number is very small. Those personages, however, turned down the appeals, claiming that in the region's present political circumstances, the autonomy plan presented by Israel does not constitute a satisfactory solution for them even if it is supported by Egypt.

Israeli elements said yesterday that the autonomy plan is not at the moment supported by any element in Judaea and Samaria. However, if its implementation is decided upon, there is a chance that a process of putting up with it will begin and the first to cooperate with the Israeli authorities will be these Arab personages, who will present the plan as the lesser of two evils.

In the wake of publication of the Israeli-Egyptian draft treaty, renewed expression was given yesterday to the basic opposition to the autonomy plan. Public figures and mayors rejected the plan outright, in addition to rejecting its linkage to the Israeli-Egyptian agreement.

In the editorial published in AL-QUDS today, it is stated that even if the linkage problem between the two agreements is solved, the main problem concerning the future of the Gaza Strip, Judaea and Samaria will remain unchanged.

JORDAN DEMANDS W. BANK TOWNS BREAK WITH ISRAELI UTILITIES

TA280632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Jordan is demanding that the municipalities in Judaea and Samaria unhook themselves from Israel's electricity network and their waterworks linked with Israel. Jordan has frozen the funds of several municipalities, which are kept in Amman to pressure them to respond to the demand. One of these municipalities is Tulkarm, which was the first to be linked to the national electricity network. Not long ago, a delegation from the municipality went to Amman and begged Jordan to go back on this demand, but returned emptyhanded. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that officials in Amman praised the Nabulus municipality to the delegation for having stood up to pressures and not having joined the national electricity network. Our correspondent comments that Jordan has never approved of the linkage to the national electricity network or the linkage to waterworks also used by Israel. But it was only after the Baghdad conference that it raised these emphatic demands.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 28 November adds: Jordan has demanded of the mayors of Ramallah and Al-Birah that they resign from the board of directors of the Jerusalem Electricity Company. This is reported by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. These two mayors were given the posts after the Jerusalem municipality appointed its own representatives to the council. In Jordan's view, the action by these two mayors is in the nature of recognizing the unification of Jerusalem.

Jordan has also demanded that the municipalities in Judaea and Samaria remove themselves from the national electricity network and the waterworks used by Israel. In the view of sources from the territories, these moves are a result of the Baghdad conference.]

ISRAEL, SYRIA AGREE ON EXTENDING UN MANDATE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TA252014Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Syria and Israel have already agreed to an extension of the UN mandate on the Golan Heights. The mandate will expire at the end of the month. The UN secretary general has informed the UN Security Council of this. Kurt Waldheim says that the situation on the Golan Heights has been calm over the last 6 months, but the danger of conflagration always exists in the Middle East.

KNESSET DELEGATION VISITS LENINGRAD, LEAVES FOR MINSK

TA241945Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli delegation visiting the Soviet Union as the guest of the Soviet Peace Committee today visited the large synagogue in Leningrad. The crowd of worshippers, most of them elderly people, received the delegation warmly. This evening the delegation members left for Minsk. Earlier they had laid a wreath on the enormous common grave in the Leningrad cemetery, where the 500,000 victims who fell during the siege of the city in World War II are buried.

Member on Relations With USSR

NC251324Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] To Leningrad now, where, for the first time in many years, an Israeli political delegation made up of four Knesset members is visiting. Among them is Labor's Yosi Sarid. In a telephone conversation a short time ago, he summed up his impressions:

[Yosi Sarid--begin recording] As far as the political dimension of our visit to the Soviet Union in concerned, I would like to be very realistic, and strictly faithful to the facts. Undoubtedly, the dialog we have started here is quite significant. The Russians keep telling us that the heavy ice characterizing the mutual relations--or to be more exact: the no relations--between Israel and the Soviet Union, has started moving. They keep indicating that the very fact of our visit here is the best proof that something is moving. I am quite sure--and it is not merely a speculation--that the dialog we opened is going to develop. The hottest debate we have conducted here was about the nature and the character of Zionism. My impression is that there is no way to narrow the ideological gap between us concerning Zionism. But the Russians insisted to be as practical as possible by ignoring the ideological difficulties.

Frankly speaking, I can see no immediate improvement as far as the Russian policy in the Middle East is concerned and no immediate renewal of diplomatic relations. But, on the other hand, I can see very slow, but gradual, improvement since my personal impression is that, possibly, the Russians feel badly about being absolutely disconnected from Israel and being considered as a one-sided factor in the dispute.

Finally, I have to stress that the Russians are going out of the way to please us, as if they mean to say that political disagreements are one thing, but people-to-people relations are quite another thing. All our requests have been respected and our hosts do not save any effort to demonstrate their good will and good intentions.

[Question] Yosi, when you walk in the streets and people know that you are a member of parliament--a member of the Israeli Knesset--even non-Jews: How do they react to you? Do they act with hostility or with sympathy?

[Answer] If I understood you well, the attitude of the people on the street is very sympathetic. As soon as they realize that we are Israelis and then they are realizing that we are Israeli politicians--Israeli Knesset members--they are quite excited to see us in Russia. They know the official relations between us, and by realizing all of a sudden that here stand Israeli Knesset members, they are quite surprised, and they are very very friendly. [end recording]

PRC GIVES 'VERY HIGH PRIORITY' TO MIDEAST, ISRAELI ISSUES

TA271139Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Nov 78 p 3 TA

[By Sha'ul Ben-Hayyim, MA'ARIV correspondent in Mexico]

[Text] The Middle East issue was brought up during talks between the president of Mexico and the Chinese leadership during a state visit the president of Mexico, Lopez Portillo, made to Peking. This has been confirmed by Mexican sources in the capital of Mexico.

"It is inconceivable these days to hold any sort of diplomatic talks of world scope without including the Middle East," a senior Mexican source said.

According to him, the issue of Israel was brought up in the Middle East context, in that of the Israeli-Arab dispute and "particularly in the context of implications of the issue for the oil-producing countries." The Mexicans realized that the Chinese give a very high priority to the Middle East issue--"Of course, after the hegemony issue," said one of the sources.

In background talks, it is possible to hear from Mexican officials that they felt the beginnings of a change in China's attitude toward the questions of the Middle East in general and Israel in particular. Of course, these sources emphasized, this is only an impression and carries with it no factual proof.

The visit by the president of Mexico to China is interpreted by observers in the Mexican capital as a most important event, the culmination of a series of state visits to the capitals of the superpowers. Lopez Portillo first visited Washington, then Moscow and now Peking.

Mexico's links with China are growing stronger. The Chinese presence in Mexico City is increasing and commerce is expanding.

BEGIN'S CABINET RESHUFFLE PLAN BRINGS OBJECTIONS

Likud Factions Feel 'Disadvantaged'

TA241550Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The objection to the prime minister's plan to reshuffle his cabinet continues among the Likud factions. The head of the Herut Knesset faction, MK Hayyim Kaufman, said that his faction is disadvantaged from the point of view of the cabinet's power relations. It is about time that the movement receive the preference it deserves in the cabinet in the economic and social spheres. In contrast, MK Pessah Grupper, from the Liberal Likud faction, said he will demand that his movement's representatives receive the transport portfolio in addition to the industry portfolio. If the movement receives less in distribution of the portfolios, the Liberal Knesset members will stop being the good child of the coalition, as he phrases it, and will take measures. The two Knesset members talked with our correspondent for party affairs, Amnon Nadav.

Begin Firm on Positions

TA271830Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister met tonight with members of the Herut faction in the Knesset and told them that he insists on appointing Minister Gid'on Pat minister of industry, commerce and tourism; appointing Minister Levi as construction minister and that no other minister should be added to the cabinet. He made it clear to the members of his faction that, according to the formula whereby every four Knesset members are represented by one minister, Herut does not deserve another portfolio. He also pointed out to the Herut faction members the coalition complexity that might arise should another minister from Herut be appointed, because Mafdal would then demand another minister as well.

The prime minister also rejected the demand that the social welfare portfolio be taken from the Democratic Movement and given to Herut. Begin clarified that even though the Democratic Movement has a proportionately larger representation than its real power, he could not decrease the number of that party's ministers in light of the coalition difficulties which might subsequently arise. Our correspondent remarks that members of the Democratic Movement have warned that if this happens [and the welfare portfolio is taken from them and given to Herut], they might withdraw from the coalition.

At the same time, Begin emphasized that Herut will be given the deputy ministership in the Ministry of Industry, that he had already discussed this with Minister Pat and that they reached agreement on it. The prime minister also met with Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg tonight to discuss the Mafdal demands. It was decided that Mafdal members will confer with the prime minister either tomorrow or the day after, to continue deliberations, and our correspondent says that as a result of this, the reshuffle proposal will be brought up only at Sunday's cabinet session and not prior to that.

Liberals Dissatisfied

TA271939Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Circles in the Liberal Party tonight expressed dissatisfaction with the prime minister's intention to appoint a member of the Herut faction as deputy minister of industry after Gid'on Pat receives the portfolio.

The circles told our correspondent Asher Schwartz that this would be a blow to the Liberal faction's power and status in the Likud.

Our correspondent says that the Liberal faction in the Knesset will convene tomorrow to discuss the proposed appointment.

MOST MINISTERS OPPOSE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, PROPOSED CUTS

TA2241559Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Most ministers are opposed to the budget proposal for the next fiscal year which the finance minister will submit next week, as it includes cuts for all ministries. This is reported by our correspondent Yosi Melman.

The defense, agriculture and education ministers have already expressed sharp reservations about this when they conferred with the finance minister this week. They announced they will repeat their position in the cabinet's special session, that will take place on Tuesday in order to discuss the budget. A similar reservation is expected on the part of other ministers. The proposed budget is about 220 billion Israeli pounds, at today's prices, which reflects a very limited growth of about 3 percent compared to the present budget.

SPECULATION ON DISPUTE BETWEEN DAYAN, BEGIN'S CABINET

TA271557Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Nov 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat]

[Text] Are the prime minister and the foreign minister still broadcasting on the same wavelength regarding the progress of negotiations with Egypt, or has there been a serious dispute between them, with only the external signs of peeping out from under the carpet hiding its existence from the public eyes?

Rumors in this vein are prevalent in Jerusalem these days. Nevertheless, as might have been expected, circles close to the two of them are denying that there is such a dispute.

The reason for the dispute, as far as can be ascertained, springs from Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's realization that there is no hope of pushing As-Sadat into signing a separate peace treaty or a treaty likely to be seen as such in the eyes of the Arab world and the Palestinians.

Accordingly, Dayan has basically accepted the U.S. approach, intended to give As-Sadat as long a "rope" as possible, which will prove that he is not trying to sign a separate treaty nor does he intend to let the solution to the Palestinian problem, the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, slip from his hands.

On the basis of this understanding between the foreign minister and the Americans, Dayan has in fact become an active partner, together with Prof Aharon Baraq, in composing the U.S. compromise formulation regarding the timetable for autonomy and establishment of a target date for holding elections in the territories, that is: The beginning of negotiations over autonomy--about a month after the signing of the treaty with Egypt--and an attempt to end the negotiations and hold the elections no later than December 1979.

When Mr Begin studied the above formulation at the Kennedy Airport in New York, in the presence of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, he rejected it on the spot. Dayan, despite the fact that he took offense on that occasion at a comment made by Begin, later rescinded on his support for the compromise proposal and, last week, brought a draft proposal to the cabinet that had been coordinated with the prime minister. Nevertheless, it appears that Dayan still adheres to his view that no move can take place in the negotiations as long as Israel does not accept the formulation, perhaps more compromising and softer, which will express the necessarily existing linkage between the treaty with Egypt and implementation of the autonomy regime in the territories.

On the basis of these things, we should understand that Dayan's statement last week, in which he rejected the need to return to Washington for a continuation of the negotiations was, in fact, not so much directed against the Egyptians or the Americans as it was an expression of Dayan's anger with the cabinet's position.

We can even say that Dayan is not prepared to return to Washington as long as the cabinet gives him no "rope" and some maneuvering space on the linkage and timetable issues. In the existing situation, Dayan is not prepared to return to Washington because, on the above issues, as a result of the cabinet's position, he has nothing to offer Egypt.

Whether this is so or not, Dayan must now also wait for Egypt's reply to Israel's proposal to sign the treaty as is.

Another issue may serve as an excuse for a dispute between the foreign minister and the cabinet. Unlike other ministers, Dayan is angry about the great publicity given to the series of recommendations by the director generals' committee [interministerial committee] regarding the autonomy due to be established in the territories, among them granting rights to Israel over water sources and over about a million dunams of state lands in the territories. The foreign minister's anger is directed at the shreking contradictions between Israel's position, which on one hand rejects setting any timetable whatever for the founding of autonomy, but on the other hand publicly announces intentions in the territories that possibly do not fit in with the autonomy program as it is written and texted.

ISRAEL TERMINATES ARMS SUPPLIES TO NICARAGUA

TA281217Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Nov 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Sha'ul Ben-Hayyim]

[Excerpt] Israel has informed the Mexican Government that it has stopped supplying weapons to Nicaragua. This was stated yesterday by Mexican Foreign Minister Santiago Roelin in an exclusive interview with MA'ARIV.

He said: "The Israeli ambassador to Mexico, Shaul Rosolio, has officially told me that his government has ceased supplying arms to Nicaragua and that the latest shipment of 500 light weapons was the last of its kind."

The issue of the supply of Israeli arms to Nicaragua has been of major concern in South America. In the wake of the severe criticism leveled against the Nicaraguan leader, Anastasio Somoza, Israelis--both official representatives and private citizens--have become a target for criticism over the supply of Israeli arms to Somoza.

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS 25 NOV

LD251942Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 25 November carries a 15-minute report on a speech by Prime Minister Azhari at a meeting in Tehran on 25 November between the prime minister and 29 representatives of the country's university students.

The announcer says the prime minister refers to the importance of education for the country and a better Iran, particularly in looking ahead to the day when the students take over the affairs of the country. He stresses the importance of the constitution and its promulgation with the cooperation of the Iranian people and the ulemas as well as youth. The announcer then quotes Prime Minister Azhari as saying: "During speeches in the Majlis and the Senate, I said that as the head of government, I am responsible to the people and the legislature; indeed, I feel responsible for any action by the government, if it is contrary to the constitution. However, another significant point I wish to raise is that considering our country's strategic position and the oilfields we own, unfortunately attempts have been made to influence events in our country. However, the nature and the methods of this influence have varied in form at different periods." The prime minister then goes on to tell the student representatives about this danger, adding: "It is our duty to tell youth about these facts, that there are certain hands which wish to have an influence in this country and exploit our resources. These hands want to place (?yokes) around our necks. In fact, however, we are discarding these yokes gradually--one after another. Those who wish to make use of our hard work and blood are not only busy in our country, but are engaged in provocations and are creating dissension in other countries as well."

The prime minister then refers to psychological battles and discontent in the country, noting that many promises were made in the past without being kept. He says that many mistakes were made which must be corrected. He stresses the need for people's participation in the affairs of the country as well as the need for the government to tell people the truth. Prime Minister Azhari also refers to the fight against corruption, saying that when the corrupt individuals are arrested, one's enemies also grow in number, but that this does not worry him.

He stresses the great importance of universities, urging the students to get on with their studies. The announcer then quotes the prime minister as saying that "the enemy's designs are really impressive; the enemy created a situation wherein the universities, where your minds should be trained, are closed. The consequence of these university closures is nothing but to deprive our youth of acquiring knowledge. This is the most damaging blow dealt us so far by the enemy; for when universities are closed and we are unable to train experts for the country, the result will be to hand over our affairs to foreign experts."

The announcer says that the prime minister cites the situation in universities, adding: "I believe there is no harm in learning about various ideological schools of thought or discussing them; on the contrary, they tend to make men more aware. However, care should be taken not to allow these to harm the individual liberty. Our country has a very special strategic position, and, as I said, all other governments wish to have some influence in this country. Therefore, the solution to this problem is to have a united society and take steps within the rational solution provided by the constitution."

According to the announcer, the prime minister then refers to students as his sons and ask their cooperation in reopening the universities, saying: "It is up to you to have universities resume their operation; if you guide each other, nothing else can keep them closed." Referring to advice he gets from others, Azhari is quoted as saying: "I have been advised by some to keep the universities closed for 1 or 2 years. I have said no; the sooner we can do something positive, the better. That way, those who wish to continue their education might do so. The universities must reopen, but I repeat, this is up to professors and students. My dear sons, the cold war we are caught in today was plotted 20 years ago; they placed certain pieces in certain positions in order to give rise to public discontent and discomfort.

"Some people ask me why we keep releasing prisoners one after the other. I tell them because some of these prisoners were arrested wrongly. The shahanshah wills it and the law allows them to be freed. Not only that, I believe even after their release, each one should return to his former position."

The report concludes by saying that the representatives of university students asked the prime minister for a more extensive meeting, with the participation of more representatives, to which the prime minister responds positively, without setting a date.

Addresses Group on Recent Developments

LD261920Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Report on answers given by Iranian Prime Minister Gholamreza Azhari to questions asked by a group of local citizens in Tehran on 26 November regarding current events in Iran]

[Excerpts] In answer to questions asked by a number of prominent local citizens who participated in a meeting with the prime minister this evening in Tehran, Gen Gholamreza Azhari said: My opinion on the slogans written on the cities' wall is that walls are not the right place for such things. Everyone prefers walls and doors to be clean. Whatever the purpose of such acts, writing slogans on walls is a bad thing. Of course, I think this is a psychological reaction. At any rate, this is certainly not the right thing to do and the municipalities and those responsible for keeping the cities clean should remove these slogans.

Regarding the arrest and detention of government officials and individuals from the private sector, the prime minister said: Were they in danger of being killed before their arrest? Now that we have arrested them, the people are saying that they were arrested because the people intended to kill them. If the government's measures and actions are misinterpreted, it is, I think part of the same psychological war to which I have alluded. Perhaps it is justifiable to some extent, because many lies have been told to our people in the past that they don't even believe those who are trying to do something honest. However, I assure you that those arrested will all be punished if they are found to have committed offenses--if they are guilty of such things as theft, abuse of power, or if they have given money to others from public funds. Otherwise, they will be released. For the moment, we are holding them in detention until the court decides their fate. So it is part of the psychological war to say that those arrested have been arrested to protect their lives. You young people, my brothers, present here should bear in mind that our country is in a state of psychological war and that a psychological war attacks borders, minds and hearts.

Could we not detail a few policemen or soldiers to protect the lives of these people? Why should I have to protect them in this manner? Do I have to send you to jail if I want to protect you? There are people in the country right now who are being protected without being sent to jail. I have sent these other people to jail so that the country may know what offenses they have committed once the court has clarified their position. Because I am a Moslem, I cannot judge them in advance. It is up to the court to decide their fate. If they are acquitted by the court, we will set them free with respect and courtesy. If they are found guilty, they will go straight to jail.

Addressing his audience, the prime minister said: If you are still not satisfied with what I have said, I am ready to answer more questions. I am asking the same thing of everyone in the country, because I was in fact appointed by his majesty, who selected his own chief of staff. If there is something crooked or deceitful in my work, then who else in this country can be trusted and believed? So, I sincerely want to observe the provisions of the constitution and eliminate, as far as I can, those things that I believe have brought the country to this state.

A question was asked regarding the slow progress being made in the inquiry into the assets and wealth of the royal family as ordered by the shah. The prime minister said: As regards the investigation of the royal family's assets, I must say that it was the shahanshah himself was settled, as you may recall, some years ago when the Pahlavi Foundation was set up. All the issues you raised here concern the Pahlavi Foundation, from which thousands of students have benefited and are still benefiting in the form of scholarships. So, when the shahanshah himself hands all his assets over to a foundation to be used for charitable purposes, I agree with you that the situation should have been investigated earlier. Fortunately, in the course of recent events the monarch's assent regarding the matter was granted and a number of people have been selected to investigate the affair. They started their work today, and I hope the results of their inquiry will be revealed to the Iranian people as soon as possible.

The prime minister added; I am not the type to engage in lies, flattery and undue praise. I have seen most of the great palaces in the world. I once told the shahanshah that what was left for the people of this country and for foreign tourists to visit as symbols of this country were its royal palaces. But the shahanshah said in reply: I would like my palace to be founded in the hearts of the people. But now we have a situation in which everything that happens is attributed to the shahanshah.

At this point, the prime minister swore that he did not intend to defend anyone, and stressed there was nothing whatever in his remarks that was untrue.

In answer to a question regarding the current state of propaganda on radio and television, in which it was asserted that these propaganda efforts were designed for show and were not in keeping with the country's current needs, and that the people did not believe such propaganda was proper in the context of the national objectives, the constitution and the need for absolute respect for the constitution, the prime minister said: I thank you for bringing up this very sensitive issue. This very day, someone came to see me and asked about press censorship and nonpublication of newspapers. I told him I will not censor any newspaper given one condition, namely, that you abolish your own internal censorship. Recently, unfortunately, our newspapers did not publish accurate reports; instead they were publishing inaccurate reports in bold letters. But I said that from this government's point of view--a government that truly observes the provisions of the constitution--no one may deprive another person of his freedom under the constitution. How can we censor the material written by our good and faithful writers?

I am telling the people of this country the newspapers will be published just 1 day after you have been able to put a check on those who censor others. The constitution has granted you freedom. Who is the prime minister to tell you to do this or not to do that? I don't believe in these things in principle.

Concluding his remarks, the prime minister spoke about the closure of shops in Tehran today. He said: I tell you this is also part of the psychological war, which turns a molehill into a mountain--to distort public opinion completely and to exploit it. Good things and bad things happen in a country, but I as head of government, will try to acquaint the people with everything that happens. I hope that, with the people's help, we will be able to deny the enemy his weapon and thus prevent him from turning a molehill into a mountain. I wish I had more time to answer all your questions, but unfortunately I have to go to another meeting.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER AMINI ON CURRENT SITUATION

LD271736 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1050 GMT on 27 November carries a 31-minute recorded interview with former Iranian Prime Minister 'Ali Amini, given to radio correspondent 'Alireza Nuri. No date for the interview is given.

The correspondent begins the interview with the introduction: "All of you are familar with the name of his excellency 'Ali Amini, former prime minister of Iran. He is a politician who was Iran's prime minister for 14 months in 1961 and 1962. The present situation in the country has prompted us to interview him."

The correspondent starts his first question by referring to the present wave of discontent and strikes that have engulfed the entire country, and then asks Amini to comment on the reasons and causes for this state of affairs.

Amini says that incorrect economic, social and political policies have been pursued by various governments over the past 13 years, adding that people have never been given a chance to speak their minds. He states: "I remember once when I asked various government officials what they meant by the absence of interference in politics. You see, every individual is affected in some way by politics in his daily life. For instance, he could be short of water, bread or other requirements. In such circumstances, he must be able to hold someone responsible; this is where the government comes in."

Referring to those responsible for the present state of affairs, Amini says: "I believe the country's information and security organization [SAVAK] bears the greatest responsibility, for SAVAK did not do what it was supposed to do. I have already said that various people in this country have suffered incredible discomfort at the hands of this organization, an organization which should have been aware of what was happening in the country. What it should have done was to identify and remove troublemaking and sabotage groups. Unfortunately, I think it ignored this basic task and became involved in things that were in the interests of neither the country nor the monarchy. I believe that all the false reports submitted to his majesty were provided partly by this organization. We notice today, as a result of the present freedom, that a major part of the accusations of corruption are aimed at this organization. In any case, [words indistinct] a situation was created in which criticism, which is necessary for the progress of society, was eliminated. Obviously, they justified this by claiming that criticism would lead to disturbances and unrest, but I believe that even if that much criticism had been allowed, we would not be where we are now."

Amini then continues by citing the absence of any programs by past governments to predict economic and social problems, and criticizes the agricultural policies pursued by various governments that have led to importing various agricultural produce. He singles out economic factors as one of the most important factors that brought about the present unrest and discontent, adding that the majority of people have not really benefited from the increase in oil revenues. Referring to the role of government, Amini says: "Those in power shirked their responsibilities, and this very absence of government and the lack of a governmental buffer between the monarchy and the people resulted in all of the discontent being directed against the head of state. I believe that responsibility should not have been apportioned in this way, for these gentlemen were responsible to the people and the constitution; thus, shirking their responsibilities, even if his majesty had issued written orders, was against the people and the country and the law of the land."

The former prime minister then points out that measures ought to be taken to separate the issues, adding: "The reason I entered the political arena was to see that the country's policies did not remain two dimensional: one dimension leaning to the right, and another to the left or semileft. There ought to be a middle dimension embracing the majority of the people. This was my objective in entering the political arena, so that the people would notice that there was a center and there was one [word indistinct] person who raised the point that there was a majority supporting a moderate policy." Amini then goes on to say: "Obviously, it would not be easy to implement this moderate policy, for the magnitude of discontent has reached the point, as experience has shown in other countries, that if the moderates do not take immediate actions the other extreme poles will succeed."

Asked whether a moderate government could solve the country's problems under the present circumstances, Amini says: "[Words indistinct] of course, we do not accept the left or right extremists. However, this moderate government must take serious and radical measures which are not contrary to a moderate approach."

"Amini then refers to the fight against corruption, saying: "As long as the people have not felt something tangible and have not seen something done, they will not be content with talk."

Citing the recent period of freedom in Iran and the people's expression of discontent, Amini says: "People keep asking themselves: Who is responsible? Those responsible for this situation must be identified. Well, a great many people [words indistinct] hold the shah responsible for everything, for officials in these governments kept saying: We are doing nothing but carrying out orders. Consequently, the (?blame) has been centralized in one place. I am saying that these responsible individuals must eventually be arrested and punished in order to calm the people; otherwise, no matter what is done, they will not rest. I must say that the present government has taken certain measures, and, since I have always tried to be fair in life, I must say that the government's positive measures ought to be supported and its negative measures criticized. However, some sort of account should be taken of positive measures."

The former prime minister reiterates that those responsible should have been arrested "so that responsibility would have been further removed from the top." He adds that the shah "has been lied to, and it is now clear and everyone knows that a number of people in charge in those days have confessed that they did not notify him. Now, whether they were being considerate or did not wish to annoy him, in any case, they kept silent--some of them. It was this silence which became very dangerous to the country; so these people brought about this situation.

Asked about the widespread corruption, Amini says: "This corruption is so widespread that we cannot expect an anticorruption campaign against all classes, in the real sense of the word. There is a group known to the people; you ask them and [words indistinct] they will tell you. Consequently, if these individuals are arrested and punished I believe the people will calm down to some extent."

Amini then recalls his own premiership, adding that as a result of his reports to the shah, corruption was reduced by 50 percent, and he notes that one cannot expect to reach the figure of 100 percent for, he says, there are groups in lower echelons in government departments who have to make ends meet this way. Amini goes on to elaborate on this issue, citing false reports on fighting inflation.

Asked about the pressure bearing down on the majority of people, Amini says that the government's promises to increase salaries and housing allowances for civil servants are not practical under the circumstances and in this respect cites his own experience as prime minister. He adds that the government should set an example and be honest about its promises and intentions.

At this point, the correspondent asks about the possibility of forming a united national government, saying: "Considering the increasing momentum of demonstrations, strikes and unrest, how far could such a government go toward resolving these problems and, moreover, what groups should participate in such a united national government"?

Amini briefly cites various groups, saying: "I believe we are living in a period when whoever accepts the responsibility must be courageous and selfless. Otherwise, going after popularity and protecting one's popularity will be of no use." Amini says that whoever takes over must work for the country and the people, adding: "Today, anyone wishing to do real work must realize that he will have opposition, that his life and property will be in danger. If such an individual starts thinking about such opposition, he will get nowhere." He then advises these people not to be afraid. He recalls a certain incident when, as finance minister, his life was threatened, but says that he paid no attention to the threat.

Amini then refers to the aim of the present generation, saying that the country's young people need a cause, a slogan, and that governments ought to have proper, long-term programs for the country.

Another question is then put to Amini about relations between Iran and the international oil consortium and its improper demands. He says: "Well, I have been rather divorced from the situation for some time and therefore do not know of the talks and the agreements." He goes on to add: "I believe these problems could be solved, considering the situation in the world market and negotiations with other OPEC members. However, I have always believed in negotiations, and I do not think this is a political issue. We must try to consider the situation from a commercial aspect." Amini then goes on to note Iran's exports, adding that oil revenues are very much needed by the country, as its other exports are minimal.

At this point the correspondent asks: "Mr Amini, these days rumor has it that your political activities have increased more than before. I remember that a few days ago you held talks with a number of religious leaders and discussed points during your meetings. May I ask you about the main subject of these talks?"

Amini says: "Let me begin by saying that my political activities are not what you gentlemen think they are. I do not want to become prime minister, for I have had that job before. [words indistinct] Therefore, at my age I have no such desire.

However, the main issue is the country. After all, I have some record in this country of mine, I am somebody in this country, I wish to live in this country and cannot leave it. Of course, I may be able to leave it, but if I cannot return to it again, then life will not have any meaning for me. My only motive now is that if we could manage to create unity and cohesion and rescue the country from this crisis, this would be my greatest service at the end of my life." He then recalls his services in the past and stresses the role of young people and the need for them to take over. He regrets that young people have not been permitted in past to demonstrate their potential.

Commenting on his meetings with religious leaders, Amini says: "I had the privilege of meeting his eminence Shari'atmadari and other religious leaders, for in recent years I did not have the honor of meeting them; therefore, this was an opportune moment to meet them and talk to them, as I talked with his eminence Shari'atmadari. There was nothing more to it."

Amini then talks about his religious beliefs, saying that he has always been a good Moslem. He adds: "These gentlemen do not expect a great deal; the clergy wants respect; it is everyone's duty to respect the clergy. The clergy, considering that the great majority of the people are Moslems, enjoys this respect, for it, after all, heads the religion and people look up to it. [words indistinct] Therefore, the clergy has really never depended on the government. As I said today, the clergy is outside the government. It is the government that ought to know what it wants. The clergy has been a focus for the gathering of the people throughout history."

The correspondent thanks Amini, wishing him active participation in politics, particularly under the present circumstances. Amini responds accordingly, expressing hope in young people and their role in the future of the country, concluding: "My real worry is, God forbid, that if a state of suffocation is created, we shall lose them as well [words indistinct]. I hope this will not happen."

KHUZESTAN GOVERNOR GENERAL DISCUSSES OIL STRIKE, SCHOOLS

LD251540Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Over 95 percent of the striking oil industry workers have returned to work and it is expected that the rest of the nonnative workers, who were not on duty because they were traveling during the strike, will return to work over the next 2 days. This was announced by Lieutenant General Ja'farian, governor general of Khuzestan, in an interview with FARS and National Iranian Radio and Television correspondents at the Ahvaz Center. Referring to the demands by the oil industry workers, which are basically welfare demands, Khuzestan's governor general said: The heads of the private and government sectors were contacted on the provincial central levels and they agreed to look into the workers' demands; and since the striking workers, realizing the realm's needs, have returned with open arms to duty, an arrangement has been made to pay their wages during the strike.

Expressing hope of ending all strikes during the coming week, Khuzestan's governor general said the following on reopening schools in that province: I assure the schoolchildrens' guardians that thanks to the decisions already made, schoolchildren will enjoy full security and their guardians will have no cause for worry.

The governor general of Khuzestan emphasized the need for up to 200,000 housing units in that province and said that the relevant contractors have been asked to give an undertaking to deliver the houses by 21 April 1979.

It has been decided that the necessary plans should be worked out by responsible authorities to clarify what pieces of land are suitable for whom, taking into consideration regulations and the powers invested in governors general. Among other things, instructions were issued that 60 hectares of land should be entrusted to the housing cooperative companies for the Ahvaz workers in the Karun region.

Instruction to set up relief committees in districts vulnerable to flooding in Khuzestan and securing the needs of the inhabitants in that respect and setting up a commission at the governorate general for fighting corruption were among other issues referred to by the Khuzestan governor general.

OIL PRODUCTION EXCEEDS 5.5 MILLION BARRELS DAILY

LD271804Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] According to a National Iranian Oil Company spokesman, the country's crude oil production has exceeded 5.5 million barrels a day, of which 600,000 barrels are allocated for domestic daily requirements.

SENATOR BYRD VISITS TEHRAN, ISSUES STATEMENT

LD272000Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Senator Robert Byrd, U.S. Senate majority leader and President Carter's envoy, left Tehran today after a 2-day stay in Iran and an audience with the shahanshah and a meeting with General Azhari, the prime minister.

Senator Robert Byrd, Democratic senator from Virginia, issued a press statement before his departure expressing President Carter's and his own support for the measures adopted in Iran to restore order and calm. He said: In our view, the shahanshah has taken effective steps in the political and economic fields for the continued progress in Iran. The United States wants and is determined to continue to have firm ties with Iran in the economic, political and security fields; firm Iranian-U.S. ties are mutually advantageous to both states.

Noting his country's desire for continued close ties between the two countries, Senator Byrd said: The United States has clearly stated and declared that it has no desire to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. The Soviet Union also has committed itself to noninterference in Iran's internal affairs. We expect the Soviet Union to honor its commitment. Senator Byrd added that ignoring Iran's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity would have, from the U.S. standpoint, extremely grave and worrying consequences. A stable and independent Iran is of great importance to the United States, to the regional countries and the whole world. Our friendly relations and cordial ties with Iran are a vital factor in terms of U.S. foreign policy, and we are determined and desire that these ties shall continue.

EXPORT OF GAS TO USSR THROUGH PIPELINE RESUMED

LD261223Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The first shipment of liquefied gas for domestic use has been dispatched from the Mahshahr installations. With this shipment, the problem of the delivery of liquefied gas by distribution companies will soon be over. It was also announced today that the export of natural gas to the USSR by Iran through the No 1 gas pipeline has been resumed.

AFGHANISTAN

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Cooperation Agreement

LDT251856Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry reported that a cooperation agreement between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Foreign Ministry and the Republic of Cuba was signed at 1630 at the prime minister's palace today. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by Hafizollah Amin, deputy premier and foreign minister, and on behalf of the Republic of Cuba by His Excellency Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of that country; Shah Mohammad Dost, political deputy foreign minister; Dr Mohammad Akbar Mehr, chief of the foreign minister's office; Mohammad Mirza Samah, supervisor of the General Directorate of Economic Relations in the Foreign Ministry; a group of Foreign Ministry officials; His Excellency Raul Garcia Pelaez; Cuban ambassador in Kabul; His Excellency (Lopez Delamo); His Excellency Fernando Florez Ibarra, ambassador-director in the Cuban Foreign Ministry; and other companions of the Cuban foreign minister were present at the signing of the agreement.

Amin Speaks at Dinner

LD270600Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Speech by Afghan Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin at 21 November dinner in Kabul in honor of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Dear Comrade Foreign Minister, comrades and esteemed guests: I sincerely welcome your arrival in our beloved country, Afghanistan, on behalf of all my people, my comrades and all my colleagues. Although the weather in Kabul is gradually getting cold, the warm feelings of all our colleagues were [words indistinct] for your arrival. Heroic Cuba has a special place in the hearts of our people, who are always mindful of the heroism of your valiant people; hence, your arrival and the opportunity to welcome you has brought the heartfelt joy that they have long cherished for your brave people under the leadership of your great leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, to a new level of excitement.

Dear comrade, your arrival in Afghanistan as a representative of the exalted people of Cuba is not an ordinary event, for our party comrades made great efforts and struggled under the suffocating barbaric and oppressive Zahir-Daud regime to obtain official recognition of the Republic of Cuba by Afghanistan. In their struggle members of the People's Democratic Party [PDP] of Afghanistan, the vanguard of the country's working class, suffered the hardship, humiliation, beating and killing that are detestable to humanity. (?One aim) of their struggles was that Afghanistan should extend official recognition to the Republic of Cuba. Our martyrs did not see this desire of their's fulfilled; but as a result of the sacrifices of our brave comrades and as a manifestation of the victorious April revolution, not only has Cuba been officially recognized, but one of its (?honored) personages, the envoy and foreign minister of heroic Cuba, is our respected guest in our country today. Your presence here (?tonight) is not only a source of pleasure for our people, but also to a large extent fulfills the heartfelt desire of our martyrs.

The memories of my visit to your country, a country imbued with waves of revolution, will always remain with me.

My enjoyable talks with the hero comrade, Fidel Castro, are unforgettable; and our memorable photos are kept with heartfelt affection by most of our comrades. My enjoyable revolutionary talks over several hours with the valiant Comrade Raul Castro are a source of lasting encouragement for me. It is my heartfelt desire to have the opportunity to renew our revolutionary talks with that esteemed revolutionary comrade. Our high-ranking party and government delegation has brought happy and unforgettable memories from the fraternal country of Cuba. The fraternal messages brought by the envoy of your great leader, Comrade Castro, to our great and beloved leader, Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the PDP of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, have always added to the warm feelings of our people.

Dear comrade, as a result of the victorious April revolution which brought the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan into being, the people's Government of the DRA, side by side with its fraternal governments, pursues a policy of nonalinement with full conviction. It decisively defends peace and peaceful coexistence, and it conducts decisively the struggle against colonialism, imperialism, reaction, racism and apartheid, Zionism, military bases in foreign countries and intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. As a part of the world proletarian movement and as a loyal member of the community of peace-loving, revolutionary and progressive countries, we fully support the popular liberation movements of the world and strongly condemn any country that enters upon the soil of other countries in search of a base or in the shameless pursuit of other privileges. As a fraternal country, we stand by you in all your courageous struggles against imperialism. We earnestly support the anti-imperialist struggles of all Latin American peoples. Nor do we forget the sacrifice of the brave Chilean people; we strongly denounce the fascist deeds of the imperialists and the oppressive and inhuman government ruling these troubled people. We are greatly worried about the violation of human rights in Nicaragua and strongly condemn the (?methods) and inhuman measures taken against the toiling and suffering Nicaraguan people thanks to imperialist collaboration. We will render all possible forms of support to the anti-imperialist and independence struggles of the people of Latin America, and we are always attentive to the profound effects of heroic Cuba's inspiring revolution on this movement.

Dear comrade, we are happy to know that next year's summit conference of the nonalined countries will be held in Havana, the capital of your friendly and beautiful country. We are fully confident that this session will further consolidate the unity and solidarity of the nonalined countries and further strengthen the struggle of all the world's progressive and proletarian forces against apartheid, colonialism and imperialism in the defense of peace, freedom and social progress. We fully understand that the enemies of peace and the nonalined movement are struggling and conspiring to blemish the historic significance of the Havana summit and even to destroy it. But I am quite certain that just as they failed in July this year at the nonalined foreign ministers conference in Belgrade, so they will meet with failure in the future too, for the DRA and all the world's peace-loving and progressive people, including our people, know that the Havana session will be of great importance in further consolidating the nonalined countries. They earnestly hope that it will begin successfully and that it will end successfully in the pursuit of further strengthening world peace and further expanding international understanding through good and positive results.

Imperialism and its collaborators will be disgraced once again. On behalf of the DRA, the PDP of Afghanistan and our people, I promise you all sincere cooperation for the success of the Havana summit, which is the common desire of us all.

The DRA, which has always desired peace in the world, supports detente and general disarmament and believes, as always, that peace and tranquility in our region greatly contribute to world peace. With this fact in view, we are extremely (?happy) to have friendly and fraternal relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Just as heroic Cuba is well aware of the Soviet Union's policy of peace, nonintervention in the affairs of others and respect for the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, our people have also realized this, which has been proved through experience over the past 61 years. We have extremely good neighborly and trustworthy relations with the USSR because our friends are happy about it and our enemies are unhappy and shed tears over it. We believe that misinterpreting the Soviet Union's support for this peaceful policy and for all the world's revolutionary and progressive movements, or trying to draw an undesirable picture of our contacts, friendship and fruitful cooperation with the USSR based on equal rights, is merely dancing to the music of imperialism.

Dear comrade, our relations with India are developing favorably, and we have normal friendly relations with Iran and China. Our Pushtun and Baluchi brothers welcome our revolution with great interest, and their enthusiastic welcome is indicative of our good fraternity. Our relations with Pakistan are good and friendly, and we desire an expansion of these friendly relations. We have only one political difference with Pakistan, which is over the solution of the national issue of the Pushtuns and Baluchis. I am sure that this issue can also be solved through peaceful talks in the light of history and the acceptance of logical principles in a climate of friendship and honesty. The Government of Pakistan, especially His Excellency Gen Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, has devoted his personal attention to providing transit facilities for Afghanistan, and I anticipate that we will be afforded surface transit facilities to India, too, thanks to his attention.

I wish to offer the warmth, best wishes and goodwill of our hard working people to the great revolutionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, and my sincere friend Comrade Raul Castro and to all the heroic friends and valiant people of Cuba. I ask my respectable comrades and friends to join me in this wish by raising their glasses.

Long live the heroic leader of the people of Cuba, Comrade Fidel Castro; long live our dear guest, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, the foreign minister of Cuba; long live peace, democracy and social progress.

Malmierca Replies

LD272346Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Nov 78 LD

[Speech by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli at 21 November dinner in Kabul given in his honor by Afghan Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin--read by announcer]

[Text] Comrade Hafizollah Amin, member of the People's Democratic Party [PDP] Central Committee Political Bureau; members of the Political Bureau and of the Cabinet of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]; and respectable Cubans: The warm welcome and hospitality accorded us this morning on our arrival we consider as a tribute to the Cuban revolution. My arrival on the heroic soil of Afghanistan gives us revolutionary [word indistinct] and pleasure. Of course, last May, only a few weeks after the Afghan revolution which took place under the leadership of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki and which toppled the centuries-long feudal regime. I had the honor of welcoming you in Havana on the occasion of the sixth session of the nonalined countries' coordination committee. It was a great privilege for us to be informed of the nature of this change by a great (?soldier) of the Afghan revolution. After a while, we had the opportunity to meet once again in Belgrade at the nonalined foreign ministers' meeting to discuss matters of interest and to continue our beneficial contacts.

The purpose of our visit which we looked forward to and which (?began) today is to gain closer acquaintance and understanding of those (?exceptionally) revolutionary realities which took place in this very important part of the world. Similarly, this visit bestows upon us the honor of meeting with the great comrade, Nur Mohammad Taraki. We also have the opportunity to meet with you, Comrade Hafizollah Amin, to discuss bilateral cooperation and important international issues, especially the nonalined movement.

The Afghan revolution, which has become prominent in a short time, has brought about major changes in the country. The working class began benefiting by this popular course; the issuance of the Revolutionary Council's Decree No 6 relieved 11 million farmers from the debts they owed to feudalists. Work has begun on the implementation of the land reform plan which breaks up the feudalist relations in Afghanistan. The issuance of the Revolutionary Council's Decree No 7 builds the foundation for the emancipation of women in the DRA community, and the position of woman plays an important role in development affairs. The campaign against illiteracy, which prevails in 90 percent of the Afghan population, is among the primary activities of the popular government in Afghanistan. This is borne out by the fact that only in the months since the inception of the popular order, hundreds of schools and colleges have been opened in the country. Expansion of the plans of free medical services is another task of the revolutionary government which wishes to provide facilities for the people's welfare. The formation of Workers and Farmers' Union and [word indistinct] organization, the popular order in Afghanistan [words indistinct].

The Cuban Government carefully follows revolutionary [words indistinct] in Afghanistan. Of course, the revolution in Afghanistan is not only beneficial for the region but also influences [word indistinct] in the world. Under the leadership of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, the successful revolution in Afghanistan is preparing the ground for bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Cuba. In light of this relations between them (?will be) expanded for the benefit of the people of both countries. It is the will of our governments and people to regulate our relations as as to reflect our common wishes and common revolutionary ideas. Our early recognition and the opening without delay of our diplomatic representative office and the appointment as Cuban ambassador in the DRA of Raul Garcia Pelaez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, confirms our point in this respect. It was for this reason that the Cuban flag was raised in the free atmosphere of Afghanistan at this sensitive stage which in fact indicates friendship and cordiality between Cuba and DRA.

Comrades and friends, Afghanistan and Cuba are both members of the nonalined movement. The nonalined countries' summit conference due to be held in September next year [words indistinct]. The nonalined movement has a valuable role in international affairs today. The nonalined movement, as a (?special) power has an active role in the solution of important international issues. The nonalined movement which came about after World War II as a result of the process of decolonization has always taken an active part in international affairs and the preservation of world peace and has also helped bring about a climate of equality and mutual respect. Similarly, the nonalined movement makes unreserved effort for the creation of a new international economic order so that it may eradicate the [words indistinct] old and unjust relations. This point is borne out by the adoption of the principles and resolutions of this movement right from the start of this movement.

Just before this reception, we remarked that the Soviet Embassy in Kabul will be celebrating its 60th anniversary shortly, and that the Cuban Embassy in Kabul is only 60 hours old. This comparison gives us the opportunity to think of the extent to which revolutionary developments have come about during the last decade.

People gain prominence day by day and struggle for their independence and national sovereignty; the quest for independence governs the entire world. We see the struggles of the African people against imperialism and apartheid. We are certain that the struggles of the racist and colonialist regimes in Africa in order to thwart the independence efforts of Namibia and Zimbabwe will be rendered ineffective. The people of Africa and of the entire world will support the wishes of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and southern Africa until their final victory. True independence will only be realized when the representatives of the majority of the black people of Namibia and Zimbabwe come into power. The racist regimes resort to persistent (?propaganda) against their neighboring countries. We support the frontline African countries and their friendship with Namibia and Zimbabwe and are confident that the struggles of the people of those countries will eliminate colonialism and its legacies and will ultimately attain success.

In the Middle East, the struggles of imperialism, Zionism and their companion, Egypt, will be frustrated and success will belong to the Arabs. The maneuvers which took place at Camp David cannot prevent the struggles of the Arab people. Any solution for the Middle East problem ought to be reached in light of the UN resolutions. Israel should withdraw from the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and respect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for the creation of an independent and recognized state, and the PLO should be officially recognized as their only true representative. The Middle East solution must be sought through the Geneva conference with the participation of all the interested parties.

The Vietnamese struggles gave a valuable example to the people of the world, and the people of Vietnam knew how to fight imperialism. When the Vietnamese people implemented the idea of their esteemed leader Ho Chi Minh in order to expand Vietnam ten times and make it prominent, once again they encountered a new imperialist stand. We are standing by the people of Vietnam; we are taking part in the reconstruction of Vietnam which has been ruined thanks to the imperialist aggression; we support the struggle of the people of Vietnam for the defense of their independence and national sovereignty; we (?support) the Vietnamese position that disputes in the South Asian region should be resolved through collective method and free of foreign intervention.

Dear comrades, we are confident that our visit to Afghanistan will avail us of the opportunity to strengthen the ties of friendship and cordiality more than before. We know that our peoples are strugglers and are standing in the same positions. They are fighting and struggling in order to build a world of peace, freedom and progress, to free the world from alien domination and exploitation; and to build a world in which the people are the owners of their own national capital and masters of their own destiny.

I ask you to raise your glasses with us and propose a toast for the sake of friendship between Cuba and Afghanistan; for the strengthening of friendship between the Cuban Communist Party and the PDP of Afghanistan; for the health of our host, Comrade Hafizollah Amin, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the DRA; for the success and consolidation of the Afghan revolution; for the long lives and health of the leaders of the Cuban and Afghan revolutions, Comrade Fidel Castro and Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki.

KABUL COMMENTS ON FALLING CRIME RATE

LDT272216Y Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 14 Nov 78 LD

[Unidentified commentary]

[Summary] The problem of crime results from man himself on the one hand, and on the other from conditions prevailing in society. To reduce the crime rate people must be given jobs, and economic and social justice must be insured. Under the despotic regimes of the past there was little concern for the people's welfare and their rights were not respected. From the beginning, the people's regime has taken all the measures required for the people's welfare. "A few days back we had a report that a considerable decline was noted in the number of crimes in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan since the establishment of the people's regime in this country. Naturally, this was the result of constructive planning and action of the authorities concerned.

"Training and retraining of the people and officials in various fields have been going on since the inception of the new order. Different ministries and departments, on their own part, are holding courses, seminars and conferences to train their officials." At a seminar organized by the Justice Ministry which ended recently, the minister said training is given to street traders to acquaint them with the lofty objectives of the great Sowr Revolution and so help them realize their social responsibility.

"All such seminars and courses will help do away with the thoughts and ideas left from the past despotic regimes. (?With) the holding of these seminars and courses, the officials who had been working under the past regime, will receive fresh training and understanding of the values and of justice of Khalqi [as heard] regime in the country. These seminars and courses will especially be beneficial for those who are newly appointed."

BANGLADESH

DPRK TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DACCA 25 NOV

BK251437Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 25 Nov 78 BK

[Text] A 25-member economic and trade delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arrived in Dacca today on a 10-day official visit to Bangladesh. The delegation led by the vice premier, Mr Kye Ung-tae, also includes the vice foreign minister, the vice trade minister, the vice minister for economic relations with foreign countries, director of the Trade Ministry and a team of 20 experts in various fields.

On arrival at the airport, the DPRK vice premier told newsmen that the friendly and cooperative relations between his country and Bangladesh entered a new phase following President Zia's recent visit to North Korea.

Mr Kye Ung-tae said during their visit they will exchange views with the Bangladesh officials on the question of strengthening and developing the friendly relations through the expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Shortly after its arrival, the delegation called on the minister for commerce, Mr Saifur Rahman, at his office and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Formal talks between the visiting DPRK and Bangladesh delegations will begin on Monday [27 November]. The home team at the talks will be led by the commerce minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, and the Korean team by its leader, Mr Kye Ung-tae. A trade protocol is to be signed at the end of talks between the two countries.

During its stay in Bangladesh, the members of the delegation will call on President Ziaur Rahman; the senior minister, Mr Mashiur Rahman; the foreign minister, Prof Shamsul Haq; and the finance and planning minister, Dr M.N. Huda; the agriculture minister, Azizul Haq; and the industries minister, Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed.

They will visit Chittagong, the Adamji jute mill at Naryanganj and the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute at Jaidevpur.

Dacca Reports Talks

BK271005Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 27 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Three working groups were formed at the first round of ministerial level talks between Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Dacca today. The groups were formed to identify and finalize the areas of bilateral cooperation in trade, economic affairs and shipping. A bilateral protocol is likely to be signed tomorrow.

The commerce minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, and the visiting DPRK vice premier, Mr Kye Ung-tae, led their respective sides at the talks that lasted for more than 1 and 1/2 hours. The commerce minister was assisted by the secretaries of commerce, foreign affairs, external resources division, justice and the senior officials of the Ministry of Shipping and Industries. The DPRK vice premier was assisted among others by the vice ministers of his government and the DPRK ambassador to Bangladesh. Later talking to newsmen, Mr Saifur Rahman described the talks as fruitful and said they were held in a cordial atmosphere. The DPRK leader has assured the supply of cement, pig iron and coal and said his government will also look into the possibilities of helping Bangladesh in developing limestone and coal resources. He said Mr Kye Ung-tae also assured that his government will seriously consider the question of extending assistance in developing small irrigation projects in Bangladesh in the light of the experience of his own country. The possibilities of joint ventures in shipping are also being explored.

The commerce minister also explained to the visiting vice premier the economic development programs of his country and [words indistinct] priorities on agriculture and rural development. BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha] says the vice premier is understood to have appreciated the programs of [words indistinct] priorities in the context of the developing countries like Bangladesh. Following the talks, the working groups began discussions on their various respective areas with senior officials. Reports of the working groups will be placed before the final ministerial level discussions tomorrow.

INDIA

CPI DISAPPROVES DANGE'S CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS GANGHI

BK271611Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The Central Executive of the Communist Party of India has strongly disapproved Mr S.A. Dange's [chairman of CPI] statement on the Chikmagalur byelection result.

Mr Dange in a statement had congratulated Mrs Gandhi on her victory. The committee, which has ended its 3-day meeting in New Delhi, said in a resolution that it is the party's clearcut policy to oppose both the Congress-I and the Janata parties. Its policy is to project the need for building a national alternative based on unity of, what it called, left and democratic forces.

Earlier, the committee discussed the clarification given by Mr Dange on his statement.

PORT WORKERS CALL OFF STRIKE

BK271608Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The 11-day old port and dock workers strike has been called off. This was announced by the president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers Federation, Mr Kulkarni, in New Delhi a short while ago. He said the strike has been called off in response to an appeal by the shipping minister, Mr Chand Ram, and the labor minister, Mr Ravinder Verma.

Earlier, Mr Kulkarni and other leaders of the federation had a meeting with Mr Chand Ram and Mr Verma. The ministers in their appeal called upon the federation to call off the strike and take part in the talks to reach a final settlement. They said this is necessary in the larger interest of the country. Mr Chand Ram and Mr Verma expressed the hope that the federation will give its fullest cooperation and goodwill. They said the port and dock workers can expect similar cooperation and goodwill from the government also.

Mr Kulkarni assured the labor and shipping ministers of their wholehearted support in their endeavor to meet the demands of the port and dock workers. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the workers to both the ministers for their keen interest in the problem of the workers.

TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

BK280919Y Delhi ISI in English 0842 GMT 28 Nov 78 BK

[Text] In terms of the provision of the long term trade and payments agreement between India and Romania, a trade protocol for the year 1979 has been concluded in New Delhi on 27 November between the two countries.

The Romanian delegation was headed by S. Voinog, director, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Trade, and the Indian delegation was led by Suresh Kumar, joint secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The trade protocol for the next calendar year envisages a trade turnover of rupees 1.8 billion both ways and indicates an increase of about 25 percent over the trade plan targets for 1978.

India's trade with Romania has registered a consistent growth over the last few years. The annual trade turnover between the two countries has increased from rupees 38 million in 1959, when the first trade agreement was signed with that country, to rupees 554 million in 1977. It is expected to have reached the level of rupees 1 billion in the first 9 months of 1978.

Romania is an important supplier of fertilisers to India and has also played a significant role in supplying oil drilling equipment and cargo vessels to India and in the development of our oil refineries.

Next to Japan, Romania is the major importer of Indian iron ore. India's other exports to Romania comprise of a product mix of both traditional and nontraditional items like cotton textiles, jute goods, machine tools, electronic components, oil cakes, coffee and pepper.

The recent trade talks between the two delegations were held in the context of recent visit of the Commerce Minister Mohan Dharia to Romania in an atmosphere of complete cordiality. Both sides emphasised the importance of expanding and diversifying the trade pattern in order to ensure the sustained growth of bilateral trade and reach a target of rupees 2 billion by 1980. It is in keeping with this spirit that Romania has agreed to meet our urgent requirements of fertilisers, cement, newsprint and chemicals in 1979.

PAKISTAN

NUSRAT BHUTTO STILL BARRED FROM PAKISTAN POLITICS

BK241545Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 24 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 24 (AFP)--Begum Nusrat, wife of jailed former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and acting chairman of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, today stood barred from participating in politics.

She was hit by a law forbidding political activity by politicians accused of misconduct before special tribunals set up by the military government to purge corrupt elements from politics.

Begum Nusrat, released a few days ago after a high court declared her detention as unlawful, was elected to the former National Assembly in the controversial March elections last year.

An official announcement said charges of misconduct had been brought against Begum Nusrat before a special tribunal in Sind Province.

The tribunals have already disqualified a number of politicians, including some ministers of the Bhutto regime and former members of parliament, from holding any public office for a period of 7 years.

They were found guilty of misconduct during the 5 and 1/2 years rule of former Prime Minister Bhutto, ousted from office last year in the wake of agitation against alleged rigging of elections.

The military government headed by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq plans to organize national elections by October next year.

HAQ CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT OF KASHMIR ISSUE

BK271100Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has declared that the peaceful settlement of the long outstanding Kashmir dispute is essential to bring about a lasting peace in the region. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a textile mill near Mirpur in Azad Kashmir today.

The president said Pakistan attached great importance to the establishment of friendly ties with all countries, particularly with its neighbors including India. But, he said, the relationship with India is linked with the solution of Kashmir problem in a atmosphere of amity and cordiality. The president said that the founder of the nation, Qaide Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, had described Jammu and Kashmir as the lifeline of Pakistan. Keeping in view this significant factor, he said, how can Pakistan forget this issue.

General Mohammed Ziaul Haq said that during the past 30 years many governments came to power in Pakistan, but they had one common factor, that is the fullest support to the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The president said Pakistan was itself created on the basis of self-determination and the Moslem-dominated areas of this region were asked to express their will whether they want to join Pakistan. He said the community of nations had also categorically backed Pakistan in its efforts for the achievement of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris. This is the solid commitment which in no case can diminish with the passage of time. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq announced that the government is committed to this fundamental right. He said we want to get this problem settled in a peaceful manner. Pakistan during the past 1 and 1/2 years has raised this issue at different forums. He said that whenever he met the Indian leaders, he pointed out the importance of this issue and stressed the need for its early settlement.

The president said that both India and Pakistan will have to pay fuller attention to the settlement of the Kashmir dispute for the sake of mutual cooperation and the lasting peace in the area. He said unless this problem is solved, any headway made in other fields will not prove fruitful and meaningful.

Referring to the industrial development, Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq said the policy of the government is to encourage both the public and private sectors to work side by side to strengthen the overall economy. He said with this approach in view the government has sanctioned a number of projects in both the sectors.

The president, referring to the need for textile mills, thanked the People's Republic of China for providing machinery and described it as a further step in the promotion of friendship and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

PRC VICE PREMIER WANG CHEN PAYS BRIEF VISIT

BK2417Z4Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wang Chen, arrived in Islamabad today on a 2-day visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by the defense minister, Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur. The foreign secretary, Mr S. Shahnawaz, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Lu Wei-chao, and senior officials of the Foreign Office were also present.

The distinguished guest will call on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq tomorrow and will have lunch with him. He will also meet the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi.

The Chinese vice premier will leave for home tomorrow afternoon.